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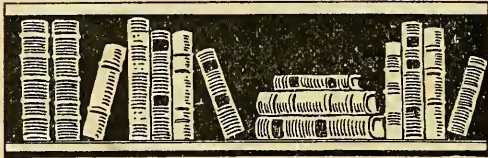
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I. W. Lees



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# HISTORY

OF

# SOLANO COUNTY

COMPRISING

AN

ACCOUNT OF ITS GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION; THE ORIGIN OF ITS NAME; TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SPRINGS; ITS ORGANIZATION: TOWNSHIP SYSTEM; EARLY SETTLEMENT, WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF SCENES AS VIEWED BY THE PIONEERS, THE FIRST AMERICAN ARGONAUTS OF CALIFORNIA; THE BEAR FLAG; THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD; THE PROGRESS OF POPULATION AND AGRICULTURE; THE MEXICAN GRANTS; THE PRINCIPAL MURDERS; INCIDENTS OF SETTLEMENT, ELECTIONS, AND TABLE OF COUNTY OFFICERS, AND HISTORIES

OF ITS

CITIES, TOWNS, VILLAGES, CHURCHES, SCHOOLS,  
SECRET SOCIETIES, ETC.

AS, ALSO,

A FULL AND PARTICULAR

BIOGRAPHY OF ITS EARLY SETTLERS  
AND PRINCIPAL INHABITANTS.

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*ILLUSTRATED.*

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SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.:  
WOOD, ALLEY & CO., EAST OAKLAND.

1879.



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# PREFACE.

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In presenting the following pages to our subscribers we will draw their attention to the fact that reliability of data has been our aim, rather than the elegance of diction and the verbiage of language.

It has in many instances been a matter of extreme difficulty, the compiling the facts we have here put together. Want of precision in the dates of the earlier occurrences in Solano county have been found a great stumbling block, while a sequence of events has been difficult to gain. Our task has been no easy one. What is there more depressing than to be told in one's researches, "Oh, there is nothing to write about here;" or, "I have nothing to tell in my biography," forgetting that no more interesting records exist than those of the doings of the Argonauts of California, a record which each and all should feel proud in perpetuating in some form that will bear the brunt of time, and hand down their names and their doings, even unto the third and fourth generation; hence, our Biographical Sketches will be found not the least interesting portion of our work.

Doctor Levi Cornell Frisbie, of Vallejo, himself a pioneer of no ordinary experience, has spontaneously penned us the following letter, which we reproduce, not so much as a testimonial, but as a proof of how our labors are appreciated by men of profession and judgment.

VALLEJO, May 23d, 1879.

Messrs. WOOD, ALLEY & Co.:

*Dear Sirs.*—Your enterprise in collecting, preserving and presenting in an enduring form facts and incidents connected with the early history of Solano county, is one that pre-eminently commends itself to the favor and support of all our people. Like

all Californians, and especially Solanoites, we are very proud of our county, and believe we have the best climate, the most picturesque scenery, and most fertile soil within the borders of the State. So important was deemed this locality that under the old Mexican *regime* was located here, the National Rancho "Suscol," as being the finest grazing and best watered tract within the whole Province, while adjoining this magnificent domain was the extensive and fertile valley of Suisun, granted by the Mexican Government to the great Chief, Solano, for the use and benefit of his tribe, who were acknowledged to be by far the bravest and most intelligent of all the California Indians, and proved ever to be the staunch friend of the existing government, being often called upon by General Vallejo to protect the property of the National Rancho and the inhabitants of the adjoining Mission and town of Sonoma, repelling by force immensely superior numbers of the wild and savage tribes that inhabited the north as far up as the boundaries of Oregon.

Here, too, in early days, after the change of government, at the city of Benicia was located the headquarters of the Pacific division of our army, under command of General Persifer F. Smith; and at a little later day, at the city of Vallejo, the United States Navy Yard, destined, when completed according to the projected plans, to be the finest naval station in the world. On the western borders of our county we have the beautiful land-locked harbors of Vallejo and Benicia, large enough to accommodate the shipping of the world, while along our eastern border runs the Sacramento river and its numerous tributaries, furnishing admirable shipping facilities for all the products of the county. The California Pacific Railroad, a branch of the "Great Central," traverses the entire length of the county, and passes through all the considerable towns. There is known to exist large bodies of cinnabar, coal, iron, marble and building stone of superior quality. Medicinal springs, thermal, chalybeate, and alterative are numerous throughout the

county, which have already become the resort of the invalid and pleasure-seeker from every part of the State. We cultivate successfully all the fruits and products of both temperate and semi-tropical zones, and, "sitting thus under our own vine and fig-tree" are, as we ought to be, *par excellence* a happy and contented people.

Very respectfully yours,

L. CORNELL FRISBIE.

Of a necessity, where we were not afforded the requisite information, it has been impossible to produce histories, notably in the instances of those schools and churches under the rule of the Catholic body, and the large flour mill of Messrs. A. D. Starr & Co., the railroad corporations, and Wells, Fargo & Co's Express—their omission has been no fault of ours.

In conclusion, we would tender our best thanks to those ladies and gentlemen of Solano county who aided us; more especially do we offer our acknowledgements to Mrs. Thomas Brownlee and her relatives, who were the first to give us a regular start in our undertaking, while to the whole of the county officers, without exception, and to Messrs. Wendell & Richardson, of the *Vallejo Chronicle*, George Roe, of the *Solano Times*, C. F. Montgomery, of the *Solano Republican*, Alfred B. Nye, of the *Dixon Tribune*, and E. A. McDonell, of the *New Era* of Benicia, for their kind assistance, while such names as those of Messrs. Fitch, County Surveyor, A. Dunn, County Clerk, G. A. Gillespie, Deputy County Clerk, S. C. Gray, of San Francisco, L. L. Palmer, of Suisun, and A. J. Dobbins, of Fairfield, should not be forgotten, nor indeed should those of our own staff, Messrs. W. A. Slocum, W. N. Bowen, and L. L. Bowen, to whom we are indebted for much valuable time and information.

WOOD, ALLEY & CO.

EAST OAKLAND, July 1, 1879.

J. P. MUNRO FRASER, *Historian*.





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# HISTORY OF SOLANO COUNTY.

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GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION AND AREA—DERIVATION OF NAME  
OF COUNTY—ITS TOPOGRAPHY—GEOLOGY—SOIL,  
SPRINGS—MINES—QUARRIES—VALLEYS,  
WATER—COURSES, Etc., Etc.

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SOLANO COUNTY has a position about midway between the northern and southern extremities of the State of California, lying between thirty-eight degrees, and thirty-eight degrees and thirty minutes north latitude, and between one hundred and twenty-one degrees thirty minutes, and one hundred and twenty-two degrees thirty minutes longitude west from Greenwich. It is bounded on the north by the Rio de Los Putos, commonly called Putah Creek—this stream being the dividing line between Yolo and Solano counties; on the east, for twenty miles, by the fresh water tules, or marsh lands, adjacent to the Sacramento river, and in Yolo county. The remainder of its eastern, and the whole of its southern boundary, is an uninterrupted navigable water-front for the space of sixty-one miles—twenty-five miles of which are on the Sacramento river, eighteen on Suisun bay, six on the Carquinez straits, and twelve on Napa bay and creek. The dividing ridges of the Napa mountains bound Solano on the west, and separate it from Napa county.

The origin of the name of the county is thus described in a report to the Legislature of California, in the year 1850, by General M. G. Vallejo, on the derivation and definition of the various counties of the State. He thus alludes to SOLANO: "This is the second name of the celebrated missionary, Francis Solano, and was borne by the great chief of the tribes originally denominated Suisuns, and scattered over the western side of the river Jesus Maria, now Sacramento. The residence of this chief was the valley of the Suisun, which is bounded by the hill near Suscol. Before receiving the baptismal name of Solano, the chief was called Sem-Yeto, which signifies the brave, or fierce hand. In 1817 a military expedition (under command of Lieutenant José Sanchez, and by order of the commandant of San Francisco Jose Arguello), crossed the straits of Carquinez (on rafts made of rushes, as there were no regular ferries in those days), for the double purpose of exploring the country and reducing it to Christianity. On crossing the river they were attacked by the Suisun tribe, then headed by their chief, Malica, who caused them considerable loss. The Indians fought

bravely and to the utmost extreme, but they were in turn attacked with such force and perseverance as to oblige them to retreat to their rancheria (somewhere in the present Suisun valley), where, being still hotly pursued and believing their fate sealed, these unfortunate people, incited by their chief, set fire to their rush-built houses and perished in the flames with their families. The soldiers endeavored to stay their desperate resolution, in order to save the women and children; but even those preferred this doom to that which awaited them from the hands of their enemies. Thus perished the chief, and thus was the hearth and the home of his people destroyed."

We are indebted to Mr. William Wayne Fitch, County Surveyor, for the following able remarks on the Topography, Geology, and other knowledge of Solano County.

The Townships are twelve in number, and range as under:

#### VALLEJO.

Fraction of . . . . .	Township 3 North, Range 4 West.
South-east of . . . . .	Township 4 North, Range 5 West.
South-east of . . . . .	Township 4 North, Range 4 West.
South of . . . . .	Township 4 North, Range 3 West.
West part of . . . . .	Township 3 North, Range 3 West.

#### BENICIA.

Fraction of North-east corner of . .	Township 2 North, Range 3 West.
Fraction of . . . . .	Township 2 North, Range 2 West.
Eastern part of . . . . .	Township 3 North, Range 3 West.
West part of . . . . .	Township 3 North, Range 2 West.
South-west corner of . . . . .	Township 4 North, Range 2 West.
South-east corner of . . . . .	Township 4 North, Range 3 West.

#### GREEN VALLEY.

Eastern part of . . . . .	Township 4 North, Range 3 West.
West part of . . . . .	Township 4 North, Range 2 West.
West part of . . . . .	Township 5 North, Range 2 West.
Eastern part of . . . . .	Township 5 North, Range 3 West.

#### SUISUN.

Small part of North-east corner of .	Township 3 North, Range 2 West.
Fractional . . . . .	Township 3 North, Range 1 West.
Fractional . . . . .	Township 4 North, Range 1 West.
Most of . . . . .	Township 5 North, Range 1 West.
East part of . . . . .	Township 4 North, Range 2 West.
East part of . . . . .	Township 5 North, Range 2 West.
Small part of . . . . .	Township 6 North, Range 2 West.



## VACAVILLE.

West part of.....	Township 6 North, Range 1 West.
East part of.....	Township 6 North, Range 2 West.
Most of.....	Township 7 North, Range 1 West.
Most of.....	Township 7 North, Range 2 West.
South fraction of.....	Township 8 North, Range 2 West.

## SILVEYVILLE.

North fraction of.....	Township 7 North, Range 1 West.
South fraction of.....	Township 8 North, Range 1 West.
All of.....	Township 7 North, Range 1 East.
South part of.....	Township 8 North, Range 1 East.
North-east corner of.....	Township 6 North, Range 1 East.
North-west corner of.....	Township 6 North, Range 2 East.
South-west corner of.....	Township 7 North, Range 2 East.

## TREMONT.

South part of.....	Township 8 North, Range 2 East.
North and East part of.....	Township 7 North, Range 2 East.
North-east fraction of.....	Township 6 North, Range 2 East.

## ELMIRA.

North-east corner of.....	Township 5 North, Range 1 West.
North-west corner of.....	Township 5 North, Range 1 East.
West part of.....	Township 6 North, Range 1 East.
East part of.....	Township 6 North, Range 1 West.

## MAINE PRAIRIE.

South-west part of.....	Township 6 North, Range 1 East.
South part of.....	Township 6 North, Range 2 East.
Northerly part of.....	Township 5 North, Range 1 East.
North part of.....	Township 5 North, Range 2 East.
West part of.....	Township 5 North, Range 3 East.
North-west.....	Township 5 North, Range 3 East.

## DENVERTON.

North part of.....	Township 4 North, Range 1 East.
West tier of Sections in.....	Township 4 North, Range 2 East.
South part of.....	Township 5 North, Range 1 East.
South-west part of.....	Township 5 North, Range 2 East.

## RIO VISTA.

South part of.....	Township 5 North, Range 2 East.
East part of.....	Township 5 North, Range 3 East.

## VACAVILLE—CONTINUED.

East part of . . . . . Township 4 North, Range 2 East.  
 North-west part of . . . . . Township 4 North, Range 3 East.  
 North-easterly part of . . . . . Township 3 North, Range 2 East.

## MONTEZUMA.

Fractional . . . . . Township 3 North, Range 1 East.  
 West tier of Sections in . . . . . Township 3 North, Range 2 East.  
 South tier of Sections in . . . . . Township 4 North, Range 1 East.  
 And Section No. 31 in . . . . . Township 4 North, Range 2 East.

A glance at the following table will inform the reader as to the acreage of these individual townships, while appended thereto are remarks as to the portions of each which are under water :

TABLE SHOWING THE ACREAGE OF SOLANO COUNTY.

Name of Townships.	Acreage.	Remarks.
Vallejo . . . . .	40,000	Of which 19,000 acres are water.
Benicia . . . . .	25,600	Of which 3,000 acres are water.
Green Valley . . . . .	31,500	
Suisun . . . . .	110,000	Of which 10,000 acres are water.
Vacaville . . . . .	66,790	
Silveyville . . . . .	56,640	
Tremont . . . . .	31,360	
Elmira . . . . .	26,880	
Maine Prairie . . . . .	58,120	
Denverton . . . . .	40,000	
Rio Vista . . . . .	57,500	Of which 1,700 acres are water.
Montezuma . . . . .	32,120	Of which 3,000 acres are water.
Total acres . . . . .	576,510	

The total area of the county is therefore five hundred and seventy-six thousand five hundred and ten acres, including land and water; of this amount ninety thousand acres are swamp and overflowed lands; ten thousand acres are mud flats left bare at low tide, leaving in the vicinity of four hundred and fifty thousand acres as land fitted for agricultural and pastoral purposes.

## TOPOGRAPHY OF SOLANO COUNTY.

Ten thousand acres of the county are swamp and overflowed land and mud flats bare at low tide. These lands border the Sacramento river in the south-easterly part of the county, and Suisun bay on the south boundary, with San Pablo bay on the south-west, and are overflowed a few inches in depth at ordinary high tides.

The Montezuma hills occupy the south-eastern portion of the upland of the county, in Townships 3 and 4 N. R. 1 E. and 3 and 4 N. R. 2 E. These elevations are from fifty to three hundred feet above tide-water, and intersected by narrow ravines or hollows (so called), the water-shed being generally in an easterly and southerly direction.

The Townsend Hills, in the south-west part of Township 4 N. R. 1 E. occupy three or four sections, and are of a similar character.

The Potrero Hills, in the northern part of Township 4 N. R. 1 W. occupy about eleven or twelve sections of land, and are surrounded by swamp and overflowed lands, except a narrow neck of low valley on the north side. The higher ridges are two hundred feet above tide-water, receding in elevation as they approach the border of level land adjoining the *tula*.

Robinson's island is upland, rising out of the *tules*, on Section 13, in Suisun township, and contains one hundred and sixty acres of land. There are other small islands of upland rising from the swamp-land, in different localities, Suisun City, at the head of Suisun Slough, on Section 36, Township 5 N. R. 2 W. being located on hard land of this nature.

Mostly all of that portion of the county embraced within a line drawn nearly east, following the border of the swamp-land eight miles to Denver-ton, and thence north-easterly six miles to Linda Slough, and north-easterly along the swamp-land, four miles to Maine Prairie village, at the head of Cache Slough, and thence easterly to the south-east corner of Section 36, in Township 6 N. R. 2 E. at the corner of Yolo county, and thence north along the east line of the county, fifteen miles to the old sink, or bed of Putah creek, and up the centre of the same, and up the centre of Putah creek westerly eighteen miles to the residence of S. C. Wolfskill, and thence nearly south, skirting the hills ten miles to the town of Vacaville, and thence south-westerly nine miles to the county seat at Fairfield, is level, with the exception of a slight ridge running across Section 3, and south-easterly a few miles through Township 5 N. R. 1 W. and other unimportant risings in a few localities. The land thus described embraces an area of about two hundred thousand acres, which may be properly called plains, having an average elevation of one hundred feet above tide-water.

A spur of rolling hills extends from Vacaville, nearly north to Putah creek, which will average three miles in width, the slopes, benches, and small valleys being celebrated for early fruits and vegetables. West of these hills and running parallel with them, lies Pleasant Valley, extending to Putah creek; this vale is also celebrated for its genial climate, early fruits and vegetables, it sending the first into market from any part of the State.

The eastern portion of Sections 24, 25, and 36, in Township 6 N. R. 2 W. and the western portion of Sections 19, 30, and 31, in Township 6

N. R. 1 W. are usually called Lagoon valley, where is located the celebrated cherry orchards of Bassford & Sons.

The north-west corner of Township 6 N. R. 2 W. is a high rocky region covered with dense chapparal, as is also the western portion of township 7 N. R. 2 W. and the western part of Township 8 N. R. 2 W.

The crest of the Vaca mountains, beginning on the first standard, north of Mount Diablo, at a point fifteen chains west of the south-east corner of Section 34, Township 6 N. R. 2 W. and running northerly to the centre of Putah creek, is the boundary line between Solano and Napa counties, and rises gradually, proceeding northerly, which, on Section 15, in Township 6 N. R. 2 W. becomes a perpendicular cliff on the west side, the vertical part varying from fifteen to fifty feet in height. The greatest altitude of this ridge of the Vaca mountains is that portion lying in Sections 5, 7 and 8, in township 7 N. R. 2 W. called the Blue mountain, and is about three thousand feet above the ocean. From this position the ridge descends towards Putah creek, while immediately south of the creek, on the east side of the ridge, are cliffs, nearly perpendicular, of from three to five hundred feet high. On Section 20, in Township 8 N. R. 2 W. the Rio de los Putos breaks through the chain in a rough, rocky chasm, called Devil's Gate. The lower portions of the sand-rock here change their clayey color, become blue and hard, and are traversed by divisional planes or joints dividing the rock into rhomboidal blocks of considerable regularity, a feature which is common to the great overlying mass of sand-rock in Solano and the adjoining counties.

The Suscol Hills, or Sierra de Napa, occupying Townships 3, 4 and 5 N. R. 3 W. in the south-west part of the county, are a series of rolling highlands, in some places rising to rocky peaks and precipitous crags. Among the most prominent of these is the Sulphur Spring mountain, which attains an elevation of five hundred feet above the bay, and is situated about five miles east of the city of Vallejo. The Elkhorn, or Ramsay's Peaks, on Section 33, in Township 5 N. R. 3 W. twelve miles north-easterly from Vallejo, rises to the height of one thousand feet. The Sisters Peaks, eight miles north-west of Fairfield, are sixteen hundred feet in height; while Millers Peak, fifteen miles north of the county seat, on the crest of the hills separating Pleasant Valley from the plains, is the sharpest, most abrupt, and best defined summit in the county; it is one thousand feet high. The Suscol range embraces an area of sixty thousand acres, it being interspersed with beautiful glens skirted with live oak, willow, and California laurel; at their western base lies a border of valley land of an undulating surface, a few miles wide, and extending from Vallejo north to Napa county. The crest or divide of these hills forms the western boundary of the county, from Section 33, in Township 4 N. R. 3 W. north twelve miles to the first Standard North.



## GEOLOGY OF SOLANO COUNTY.

The great overlying mass of rock in the hilly portions of the county, is a massive siliceous sandstone, in many localities changing to arginaceous sand-rock, with the divisional plains or joints less defined.

The erosion of this rock sends down to the benches and valleys large quantities of *debris*, which, mingled with the harder clayey deposits, makes a light, loose, and warm soil, particularly healthy, producing the earliest fruits and vegetables in the State. On the lower slopes in several localities, are found extensive areas of alluvial sandstone, formed by beds of sand cemented by iron and carbonate of lime.

Below the massive sandstone first named, beds of clay slate, alternate with slaty schistose sandstone, as seen in the face of the bluff at South Vallejo, and in those along the Straits of Carquinez, in the ravines of the Suscol hills, and on the slopes of the Vaca mountains.

Underlying the above are vast beds of Volcanic Tufa, composed of cemented, volcanic earth, light and porous, containing a large percentage of magnesia, giving the rock a light gray color, which hardens by exposure, is a perfect firestone, and of sufficient durability for building purposes, as has been proved by the erection of the following structures: the dwelling of Colonel Charles Ramsay, in Green Valley; that of Samuel Martin, L. B. Abernethie, and W. W. Scarlett, in Suisun Valley, which are all constructed of this material; as is also the Stone Church at Rockville, and an extensive barn, the property of J. M. Baldwin, near that place. There is a fine quality of this rock in the hills, on the lands of J. R. Wolfskill, whose spacious dwelling-house is built of it. It is absolutely fire-proof.

The lowest formation necessary to mention, are alternating strata of sandstone, shale, slaty sandstone, and coal. Subjacent to the foregoing is a bed of hard blue clay.

Black basalt, or dolerite, occurs on some points of the hills and ridges in the vicinity of Brideport, in the Lomas de Suisun, and on the hills east and west of Green Valley; also on the old Dorris Farm, five miles north-east of Benicia, and on the land of Lewis Pierce, nine miles from there, on the Bridgeport road. It is extensively quarried and sent to San Francisco for paving purposes.

At the Soda Springs, on Section 2, Township 5 N. R. 2 W. five miles north of the County seat, there is a quarry of beautiful white Crystalline marble, which proves to be a chemical deposit; the strata is made up of waived or undulating laminæ, showing that the deposition was made upon an uneven surface. Where the laminæ are corrugated and tortuous, it shows a beautiful finish, similar to bird's-eye maple. On Section 8, in Township 5 N. R. 2 W. four miles north-east of Fairfield, there is a quarry of variegated marble, the coloring matter of which is for the most part oxide of iron.

Hydraulic limestone, or cement-rock, is found in abundance in the hills near Benicia, and at the bluffs on the north side of Carquinez Straits.

Sulphur Spring Mountain is the termination of the Sierra de Napa, and of the great quicksilver range, and contains large deposits of cinnabar-rock, the most extensive being at the St. John mine, six miles northeast of Vallejo; the John Brownlie mine, six miles east of Vallejo; and various other localities show outcrops of this rock.

Serpentine, micaceous schistose, sandstone, hornblende, and several others of the class of rocks, usually accompanying this mineral are found on and along the slopes of this ridge.

#### SPRINGS IN SOLANO COUNTY.

The Soda and Sulphur Springs, in the Armijo Rancho, five miles from Fairfield, and the White Sulphur Springs, near Vallejo, are beginning to be appreciated for sanitary purposes.

#### SOIL OF SOLANO COUNTY.

The soil of the swamp and overflowed lands is composed of decayed vegetation; guano, sedimentary deposits from overflow of streams, mixed with a large percentage of preserved roots, the principal preservative agent being tannic acid, of which considerable beds occur, resembling peat, and when cut and dried makes excellent fuel. These lands produce abundantly when reclaimed, there being about thirty thousand acres leveed in, and several thousands under cultivation.

The Montezuma hills are not excelled as natural grain land. Some portions of the plains district are alkaline soil, and poor. Other sections are dead soil, without much organic matter. The rolling hills, to the summit, are excellent grain or grazing lands. Indeed the greater portion of the undulating lands and the plains may be denominated as one vast grain field.

#### THE VALLEYS OF SOLANO COUNTY.

SUSCOL VALLEY lies west of the Suscol hills, runs from the city of Vallejo to the northern part of the county, eight miles long and three in breadth, Napa bay washing its whole length.

SULPHUR SPRING VALLEY runs up from Suisun bay, two miles north of Benicia; has a width of from one to four hundred yards, and winds through the Suscol hills for five or six miles.

GREEN VALLEY lies to the eastward of the Suscol hills, four miles east of Suscol valley; is six miles in length, one and a half in width, and derives its name from their being a large portion of it always green.

SUISUN VALLEY is about six miles square, and lies to the north of Suisun bay and east of Green Valley. It opens out on the east into the valley of the Sacramento, and has an exceedingly fertile soil.

VACA VALLEY, formerly known as the Ulattis valley, lies to the north-east of Suisun; it is five miles in length, and one and a half in breadth, runs between two ranges of hills of considerable altitude, and opens out into the great Sacramento Valley. It, and its two offshoots, Laguna or Lagoon Valley and Pleasant Valley, are the admiration of all travelers.

SACRAMENTO VALLEY extends as far as the eye can reach, and is in a few words the farmer's paradise.

#### THE STREAMS OF SOLANO COUNTY.

RIO DE LOS PUTOS, or PUTAH CREEK, rises in Lake county, and flows in an easterly direction, winding through a rich, lovely, fertile plain, for twenty miles, and loses itself in the extensive *tules* which lie between the plains and Sacramento river. It is not navigable, but affords great facilities for the watering of stock, while in certain parts it is noted for the magnificence of its scenery.

SWEENEY CREEK rises in the Vaca hills, six miles north of the town of Vacaville; flows in a north-easterly direction for the distance of eight miles; thence in a south-easterly course to the vicinity of Maine Prairie, and empties itself into Cache Slough.

ULATTIS CREEK rises in the Vaca hills, about five miles west of Vacaville; flows through that town in an easterly direction, and empties into the west branch of Cache Slough.

ALAMO CREEK rises about four miles west of Vacaville; runs in a southerly direction, through Elmira, and enters Ulattis creek, near Binghampton.

PLEASANT VALLEY CREEK rises about two miles west of Mr. R. Miller's property; runs in a north-easterly direction through Pleasant valley, and empties into Putah creek.

SUISUN CREEK rises in Napa county, flows in a south-easterly direction, and empties into the Salt Marsh, about one and a half miles east of Bridgeport.

GREEN VALLEY CREEK rises in the south-west corner of Township 5 N. R. 2 W. and runs in a south-easterly course about eight miles, emptying into Cordelia slough, at Bridgeport.

SULPHUR SPRINGS VALLEY CREEK rises near the centre of Township 5 N. R. 3 W. runs in a south-easterly course through Sulphur Springs valley, and empties into the salt marsh two miles north of the United States barracks at Benicia.

SULPHUR SPRINGS CREEK has its source at the White Sulphur Springs, three miles north-east from Vallejo; runs in a north-easterly course, and empties into Napa bay three miles north of Vallejo.

In addition to these water-courses there are several estuaries, such as Cache Slough, with its tributaries of Bounds, Linda, Prospect, Miner's, and Elkhorn sloughs; Grizzly Slough, Roaring River, in Montezuma township, with a host of others too insignificant to enumerate.



## ORGANIZATION.

ORIGIN OF THE TOWNSHIP SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES—ITS EXTENSION TO CALIFORNIA—ORGANIZATION OF SOLANO COUNTY—TOWNSHIPS—BENICIA—VALLEJO—SUISUN—VACAVILLE—SILVEYVILLE—TREMONT—MAINE PRAIRIE—RIO VISTA—MONTEZUMA—DENVERTON—ELMIRA—BENICIA THE COUNTY SEAT—REMOVAL TO FAIRFIELD—REMOVAL TO VALLEJO—BACK TO FAIRFIELD, ETC., ETC.

The first organization of counties in the United States originated in Virginia, her early settlers becoming proprietors of vast amounts of land, living apart in patrician splendor, imperious in demeanor, aristocratic in feeling, and being in a measure dictators to the laboring portion of the population. It will thus be remarked that the materials for the creation of towns were not at hand, voters being but sparsely distributed over a great area. The county organization was, moreover, in perfect accord with the traditions and memories of the judicial and social dignities of Great Britain, in descent from whom they felt so much glory. In 1634, eight counties were established in Virginia, a lead which was followed by the Southern and several of the Northern States, save in those of South Carolina and Louisiana, where districts were outlined in the former, and parishes, after the manner of the French, in the latter.

In New England, towns were formed before counties, while counties were organized before States. Originally, the towns or townships exercised all the powers of government swayed by a State. The powers afterward assumed by the State governments were from surrender or delegation on the part of towns. Counties were created to define the jurisdiction of Courts of Justice. The formation of States was by a union of towns, wherein arose the representative system; each town being represented in the State Legislature, or General Court, by delegates chosen by the freemen of the town at their stated town meetings. The first town meeting of which we can find any direct evidence, was held by the congregation of the Plymouth colony, on March 23, 1621, for the purpose of perfecting military arrangements. At that meeting a Governor was elected for the ensuing year; and it is noticed as a coincident, whether from that source or otherwise, that the annual town meetings in New England, and nearly all the other States, have ever since been held in the spring of the year. It was not, however, until 1635, that the township system was adopted as a *quasi* corporation in Massachusetts.

The first legal enactment concerning this system provided that whereas: "Particular towns have many things which concern only themselves, and

the ordering of their own affairs, and disposing of business in their own towns; therefore, the freemen of every town, or the major part of them, shall only have power to dispose of their own lands and woods, with all the appurtenances of said towns; to grant lots, and to make such orders as may concern the well ordering of their own towns, not repugnant to the laws and orders established by the General Court. They might also impose fines of not more than twenty shillings, and choose their own particular officers, as constables, surveyors for the highways, and the like." Evidently this enactment relieved the General Court of a mass of municipal details, without any danger to the powers of that body in controlling general measures of public policy. Probably, also, a demand from the freemen of the towns was felt, for the control of their own home concerns.

The New England colonies were first governed by a "general court," or legislature, composed of a Governor and Small Council, which court consisted of the most influential inhabitants, and possessed and exercised both legislative and judicial powers, which were limited only by the wisdom of the holders. They made laws, ordered their execution, elected their own officers, tried and decided civil and criminal causes, enacted all manner of municipal regulations; and, in fact, transacted all the business of the colony.

This system, which was found to be eminently successful, became general, as territory was added to the Republic and States formed. Lesser divisions were in turn inaugurated and placed under the jurisdiction of special officers, whose numbers were increased as time developed a demand, until the system of township organization in the United States to-day is a matter of just pride to her people.

We will now consider this topic in regard to our special subject.

On the acquisition of California by the Government of the United States, under a treaty of peace, friendship, limits and settlement with the Mexican Republic, dated Guadalupe Hidalgo, February 2, 1848, the boundaries of the State were defined. This treaty was ratified by the President of the United States, on March 16, 1848; exchanged at Queretaro, May 30, and finally promulgated July 4th, of the same year, by President Polk, and attested by Secretary of State, James Buchanan. In 1849, a Constitutional Convention was assembled in Monterey, and at the close of the session on October 12th, a proclamation, calling upon the people to form a government, was issued "to designate such officers as they desire to make and execute the laws; that their choice may be wisely made, and that the Government so organized may secure the permanent welfare and happiness of the people of the new State, is the sincere and earnest wish of the present executive, who if the Constitution be ratified, will, with pleasure, surrender his powers to whomsoever the people may designate as his successor." This historic document bore the signatures of "B. Riley, Bvt. Brig. Genl. U. S. A., and

Governor of California," and "Official — H. W. Halleck, Bvt., Capt. and Secretary of State."

In accordance with Section Fourteen of Article Twelve of the Constitution, it was provided that the State be divided into counties, and Senatorial and Assembly Districts, while the First Session of the Legislature, which began at San José on December 15, 1849, passed on February 18, 1850, "An Act subdividing the State into counties and establishing seats of justice therein." The boundaries of Solano county being as follows:

"Beginning at the mouth of Napa creek and running up the middle of its channel to the mouth of the Suscol creek; thence following up said creek to the eastern boundary line of Napa county; thence along said boundary line to the northeast corner of Napa county; thence in a direct line to the nearest point of Putah creek; thence down the middle of said creek to its termination in the Tule marsh; thence in a direct line to the head of Merritt's slough; thence down the middle of said slough to its mouth; thence down the middle of Sacramento river to its mouth; thence down the middle of Suisun bay to the Straits of Carquinez; and thence through the middle of said straits to the place of beginning." It was ordered that Benicia should be the seat of justice.

Prior to this time the county had been included in the District of Sonoma, a division which had originated with the Mexican authorities during their power; it had not been interfered with on the accession of American rule, but retained the official nomenclature given by the Spaniards; their being no law, the government was administered as it seemed best to the holders of office.

To Judge Joseph Winston is the honor of first dividing Solano into townships, the county being partitioned in order to determine the limits wherein two Justices of the Peace and two Constables should be voted for at an election to be held on May 25, 1850. The order directing the dimidiation reads: "The line of division commencing at the Suisun embarcadero and running thence in a direct line to Suscol creek, by way of what is called Suscol ranch; thence down Suscol creek to Napa creek; thence down Napa creek to the middle channel of Carquinez straits; thence up the middle of Carquinez straits to Suisun bay at a point opposite the embarcadero; thence up the middle channel of the Suisun bay to the Suisun embarcadero, the place of beginning; and it is further ordered that the district of county, composed within the boundaries above set forth, be designated and known as Benicia township, and that all the residue of the territory of said county lying between said boundary lines of Benicia township and the boundary lines of said county, in every direction, be known and designated as Suisun township."

On April 11, 1850, An Act of the Legislature was passed organizing a Court of Session and defining its composition to be as follows: The Court



consisted of the County Judge, who should preside at its sessions, assisted by two Justices of the Peace of the county as Associate Justices, they being chosen by their brother justices from out of the whole number elected for the county. The duties imposed upon this organization were multifarious. They made such orders respecting the property of the county as they deemed expedient, in conformity with any law of the State, and in them were vested the care and preservation of such property. They examined, settled, and allowed all accounts chargeable against the county; directed the raising of such sums for the defraying of all expenses and charges against the county; by means of taxation on property, real and personal, such not to exceed, however, the one-half of the tax levied by the State on such property; to examine and audit the accounts of all officers having the care, management, collection, and disbursement of any money belonging to the county, or appropriated by law, or otherwise, for its use and benefit. In them was the power of control and management of public roads, turn-pikes, ferries, canals, roads, and bridges within the county, where the law did not prohibit such jurisdiction, and made such orders as should be necessary and requisite to carry such control and management into effect; to divide the county into townships, and to create new townships, and change the division of the same as the convenience of the county should require, was among their duties. They established and changed election precincts; controlled and managed the property, real and personal, belonging to the county, and purchased and received donations of property for the use of the county, with this proviso, that they should not have the power to purchase any real or personal property, except such as should be absolutely necessary for the use of the county. To sell and cause to be conveyed, any real estate, goods, or chattels belonging to the county, appropriating the proceeds of such sale to the use of the same. To cause to be erected and furnished, a court-house, jail, and other buildings, and to see that the same be kept in repair, and otherwise to perform all such other duties as should be necessary to the full discharge of the powers conferred on such court. Terms were ordered to be held on the second Monday of February, April, June, August, October, and December, with quarterly sessions on the third Monday of February, May, August, and November of each year.

In conformity with this enactment, the court held a special term on March 13th, 1851, when it was decreed that Benicia township, which was of an unwieldy size, should be divided into two portions, the division line to commence where the western corner of the town tract of Benicia strikes the bay, thence to the north-western corner of said town tract of Benicia, thence due north to the boundary line of the county of Solano, and all the territory lying east of said division line, shall hereafter be known as Benicia township; and all the territory lying west of said division line shall hereafter be known as Vallejo township. This is the first mention we

have of the Vallejo township; at the time, the city of that name was known as Eden, but on account of the strenuous efforts made by General Vallejo to have the seat of government removed thither from San José, the claims of the spot made itself felt, and it was therefore given township rights.

In 1852 emigration had set into the fertile valley of the county; it was therefore found necessary to apportion once more the large extent of territory comprised in the Suisun township into two divisions; to this end, the Court of Sessions, at a special term held at Benicia on November 1st, directed that Suisun should be partitioned off into two townships, the lines to run as follows: "Commencing at the southwest points of the Potrero Hills; thence in a direct line to the branch opposite (on the west side) the house of Mr. Cutler; thence up said branch to its source; thence in a north-west direction to the county line, and all the county east of said line, and south and south-west of Putah creek, is called Vacaville township. With this last apportionment, Solano county was divided into four parts, but still it was found to be of too vast proportions for official purposes; therefore, we find the court once more holding a *sederunt*, on August 8th, 1853, and establishing a new township, to be taken off those of Benicia and Suisun. The limits were described and designated as follows:

"To commence at the Tule, on the southwest end of Mr. Thompson's farm, and running in a direct line to the Jerry House, as it is called, on the south-west edge of Green Valley; thence following the edge of the Tule, east to the mouth of the Suisun creek; thence up said creek to the crossing of the county road, near L. Alford's; thence along said road west to the house of Mr. S. Martin; thence due north to the county line; thence following said county line west to place of beginning." This tract was named the Green Valley Township.

Affairs had not yet, however, righted themselves; the districts were still too unwieldy in size. A further contraction had therefore to be inaugurated; hence we find the Court of Session ordering, on August 15th, 1854, that Solano county shall be divided into townships, as follows:

#### MONTEZUMA TOWNSHIP.

"A new township is hereby created and established, to be called Montezuma township, which said township is designated and bound as follows: Commencing at a point in Suisun bay, where the meridian line running north from Monte Diablo crosses the line of Solano county; thence north with the meridian line to the north-east corner of Section 25 of Township 5 N. R. 1 W. according to the government survey; thence due east to Cache Creek Slough, or the eastern boundary of the county or Cache Creek slough to the Sacramento river; thence down said river and Suisun bay with the line of the county to the place of beginning."

## SUISUN TOWNSHIP.

“And the township heretofore known as Suisun township is hereby changed in its boundaries so as to conform to the following description, to-wit: Commencing at the point where the meridian line running north from Monte Diablo crosses the county line of said county; thence north with said line to the north-east corner of Section 25 of Township 5 N. R. 1 W. thence in a direct line to the white point of Long’s mountain; thence in a direct line to the residence of E. B. Witt, including his residence; thence in the same direction to a direct line to the northern boundary of the said county; thence with said northern boundary in a westerly direction to the foot of the hills on the west side of Suisun creek; thence down said creek along the foot of said hills to a point opposite the residence of William B. Brown, in Suisun Valley; thence down the middle of Suisun creek to its mouth; thence continuing the same general course to the southern boundary of the county in Suisun bay; thence up said bay with the line of the county to the point of beginning.”

## GREEN VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

“And the township known as Green Valley township is hereby changed in its boundaries so as to conform to the following description, to-wit: Commencing at the mouth of Suisun creek and running from thence up the middle of said creek to a point opposite the residence of William B. Brown; from thence in a northerly direction running with the foot of the hills on the west side of Suisun creek to the boundary line between Solano and Napa counties; thence in a south-west direction, following said boundary line to the point where the public road leading from Benicia to Napa City crosses Suscol creek; thence easterly to the house near the tule on Suisun bay, and on the road leading from Benicia to Suisun Valley, known as the ‘Jerry House;’ thence east to the county line in Suisun bay to the southwest corner of Suisun township; thence in a direct line to the mouth of Suisun creek, the place of beginning.”

## VACAVILLE TOWNSHIP.

“And the township known as Vacaville township is hereby changed in its boundaries so as to conform to the following description, to-wit: commencing at the north-east corner of Section 25 of Township 5 N. R. 1 W. according to the government survey, being the north-west corner of Montezuma township, running from thence to the white point on Long’s mountain; thence in a direct line to the residence of E. B. Witt; thence in the same direction in a direct line with the eastern boundary of Suisun township to the northern boundary of the county; thence north-easterly with the boundary of the county to Putah creek; thence down said creek



to its sink in the tule, and continuing with the line of the county in a south-easterly direction to a point due east of the point of beginning; thence west to the point of beginning."

#### BENICIA TOWNSHIP.

" And the township known as Benicia township is hereby changed in its boundaries so as to conform to the following description, to-wit: commencing at the south-west corner of a tract of land purchased by Robert Semple and Thomas O. Larkin, from M. G. Vallejo, and on a part of which is situated the city of Benicia; from thence with the western boundary of said tract of land to the north-west corner of the same; from thence due north to the line of Green Valley township; thence in a south-easterly direction on said boundary line to the ' Jerry House,' so called, near the tule on Suisun bay; thence due east to the boundary line of the county in Suisun bay; thence down said bay and the Straits of Carquinez to a point due south of the point of beginning; thence due north to the point of beginning."

#### VALLEJO TOWNSHIP.

" And the township known as Vallejo township is hereby changed in its boundaries so as to conform to the following description, to-wit: commencing at the south-west corner of a tract of land purchased by Robert Semple and Thomas O. Larkin, from M. G. Vallejo, and commonly known as the Benicia tract; thence with the western boundary line of said tract to the northwest corner of the same; thence due north to the boundary line of Green Valley township; thence in a north-westerly direction with said boundary line of Green Valley township to the boundary line between Solano and Napa counties, at the point where the public road crosses the Suscol creek; thence with said creek to Napa bay; thence down said bay and up the Straits of Carquinez, including Mare Island, to the southwest corner of Benicia township; thence due north to the place of beginning."

In 1855 a change had come o'er the spirit of the governmental dream of the county. The Court of Session was abolished and an Act passed on March 20th, entitled " An Act to create a Board of Supervisors in the counties of this State, and to define their duties and powers." For better reference the ninth section of the above Act is quoted in full: " The Board of Supervisors shall have power and jurisdiction in their respective counties: *First*, to make orders respecting the property of the county, in conformity with any law of this State, and to take care of and preserve such property. *Second*, to examine, settle, and allow all accounts legally chargeable against the county, and to levy, for the purposes prescribed by law, such amount of taxes on the assessed value of real and personal property in the county, as may be authorized by law: *provided* the salary of the County Judge need





*M. G. Pallyo.*



not be audited by the Board; but the County Auditor shall, on the first judicial day of each month, draw his warrant on the County Treasurer in favor of the County Judge for the amount due such judge as salary, for the month preceding. *Third*, to examine and audit the accounts of all officers having the care, management, collection or disbursement of any money belonging to the county, or appropriated by law, or otherwise, for its use and benefit. *Fourth*, to lay out, control and manage public roads, turnpikes, ferries, and bridges within the county, in all cases where the law does not prohibit such jurisdiction, and to make such orders as may be requisite and necessary to carry its control and management into effect. *Fifth*, to take care of and provide for the indigent sick of the county. *Sixth*, to divide the county into townships, and to change the divisions of the same, and to create new townships, as the convenience of the county may require. *Seventh*, to establish and change election precincts, and to appoint inspectors and judges of elections. *Eighth*, to control and manage the property, real and personal, belonging to the county, and to receive by donation any property for the use and benefit of the county. *Ninth*, to lease or to purchase any real or personal property necessary for the use of the county; *provided* no purchase of real property shall be made unless the value of the same be previously estimated by three disinterested persons, to be appointed for that purpose by the County Judge. *Tenth*, to sell at public auction, at the Court-house of the county, after at least thirty days' previous public notice, and cause to be conveyed, any property belonging to the county, appropriating the proceeds of such sale to the use of the same. *Eleventh*, to cause to be erected and furnished, a court-house, jail, and such other public buildings as may be necessary, and to keep the same in repair; *provided* that the contract for building the court-house, jail, and such other public buildings, be let out at least after thirty days' previous public notice, in each case, of a readiness to receive proposals therefor, to the lowest bidder, who will give good and sufficient security for the completion of any contract which he may make respecting the same; but no bid shall be accepted which the Board may deem too high. *Twelfth*, to control the prosecution and defense of all suits to which the county is a party. *Thirteenth*, to do any and perform all such other acts and things as may be strictly necessary to the full discharge of the powers and jurisdiction conferred on the Board. To these various duties, in themselves of a most difficult nature, were added the onerous responsibilities of canvassers of election returns the investigation of bonds required to be given by newly elected officers, and a general superintendence of all the monetary transactions in which the county, through her officers, has any interest. The members of these supervisors were three, and held their first meeting at Benicia, on May 7, 1855.

On August 11th, 1855, the Board of Supervisors directed that yet another township be formed, to be named

## TREMONT TOWNSHIP,

to be made, formed, and constituted on Putah creek, in Solano county, bounded as follows, to-wit: commencing at and including the farm of Mr. Priddy, on Putah creek, about two miles above the crossing of said creek, near Manuel Vaca's; thence running south on the township line to the intersection of the dividing line between Montezuma and Vacaville townships; thence east to the boundary line of Solano county; thence in a northerly direction, following the boundary line of Solano county, to the sink of Putah creek; thence up Putah creek to the place of beginning. The county was now divided into seven townships, and on August 21, were apportioned into supervisory districts, as under:

District No. 1, comprised the townships of Vallejo and Benicia.

District No. 2, comprised the townships of Green Valley and Suisun.

District No. 3, comprised the townships of Vacaville, Montezuma, and Tremont.

In the following years the upper part of the county had become thickly populated, while the towns of Suisun and Fairfield had commenced to spring into prominence, and some feeling had begun to evince itself in respect to a new location for the county seat. Benicia was found to be at too great a distance from the townships of Vacaville and Tremont; a more central position was therefore sought, and a County Seat Convention was formed, which, having appointed delegates to canvass the matter, held a meeting, a report of which is now extracted from the *Solano County Herald*, of August 14th, 1858.

## COUNTY SEAT CONVENTION.

Pursuant to notice, the delegates elected met at Suisun City, August 7, 1858, for the purpose of selecting some suitable and central location, to be voted for at the next election, for the County Seat of Solano County.

"The convention organized by electing the following temporary officers: H. G. Davidson, President; Phillip Palmer, Vice-President; Geo. A. Gillespie and H. B. Ammons, Secretaries.

"Upon motion of A. M. Stevenson, the Chair appointed a committee on credentials, one from each township. The committee consisted of P. Palmer, E. A. Townsend, Wm. G. Fore, Samuel Martin, and R. S. Phelps. Having retired for a few moments they returned into the convention and reported the following named gentlemen as duly elected delegates to this convention:

"Suisun Township.—Phillip Palmer, R. D. Pringle, H. Russell, P. O. Clayton, John Wayman, John Smithers, John A. Payton, V. Hawkins, Frank Aldridge, and J. P. McKissick.

"Vacaville Township.—H. B. Ammons, F. J. Bartlett, W. G. Fore, H. G.

Davidson, E. L. Bennett, E. S. Silvey, Mason Wilson, J. M. Dudley, J. W. Anderson, and Geo. A. Gillespie.

“Montezuma Township.—E. A. Townsend, C. J. Collins, and John B. Carrington.

“Tremont Township.—R. S. Phelps and J. B. Tufts.

Green Valley Township.—G. B. Stevenson, A. M. Stevenson, Samuel G. Martin, W. P. Durbin.

“Upon motion, report received and committee discharged.

“On motion of A. M. Stevenson, the temporary officers were declared the permanent officers of the convention. The following resolution was then offered and adopted :

“*Resolved*, That we, the delegates assembled in convention, for the purpose of selecting a suitable location, to be voted for at the next annual election, hereby pledge our votes and influence for whatever place the convention may select.

“The following places were put in nomination : Mr. Stevenson nominated Fairfield ; Mr. Palmer, Suisun City ; Mr. Bartlett, Vacaville ; Mr. Carrington, Denverton.

“The following propositions were submitted in writing to the convention: Suisun City, through Mr. A. P. Jackson, proposed giving \$5,550 in money and a certain lot 100 by 120 feet, known as ‘Owen’s Tavern Stand.’ He offered to enter into good and sufficient bonds for the performance of the same, provided the county seat should be located at Suisun City.

“Fairfield, through Mr. R. H. Waterman, proposed, in case the county seat should be located at that place, to deed to the Board of Supervisors of Solano county a certain piece of land containing about sixteen acres, known upon the plat of the town of Fairfield as ‘Union Park ;’ also, four blocks, each block containing twelve lots, to be selected as follows : two from the north and two from the south, or, two from the east and two from the west of ‘Union Park ;’ he offering to enter into bonds for the performance of the same.

“Vacaville, through Mason Wilson, offered to give four blocks of lots, \$1,000 in money, provided the county seat should be located there.

“Denverton, (Nurse’s Landing) through Mr. Carrington, proposed to run upon its own merits. After a long and animated discussion, the convention proceeded to take the vote, when Mr. Clayton, of Suisun, was appointed teller to assist the secretaries. The Chair announced the result to be as follows :

“Fairfield, sixteen votes ; Suisun City, twelve votes ; Denverton, one vote. Whereupon Fairfield was declared the unanimous choice of the con-



vention. Upon motion of G. A. Gillespie, a committee of five, consisting of one from each township, were elected to act in connection with the Board of Supervisors in receiving proper bonds from Mr. Waterman for the faithful performance of his proposition. This committee consisted of Phillip Palmer, Mason Wilson, J. B. Tufts, J. B. Carrington, and A. M. Stevenson.

“Upon motion, it was resolved that the ‘Solano County Herald’ be requested to publish the proceedings of the convention.

“Upon motion, the convention adjourned *sine die*.

H. G. DAVIDSON, President.

GEO. A. GILLESPIE, }  
H. B. AMMONS, } Secretaries.”

In pursuance of Mr. Gillespie’s motion Mr. R. H. Waterman entered into the following bond: “Know all men by these presents, that I, Robert H. Waterman, of Fairfield, in the county of Solano, and State of California, am held and firmly bound unto the Supervisors of Solano county, in the sum of ten thousand dollars lawful money of the United States, for which payment will and truly be made. I bind myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, firmly by these presents. Sealed with my seal and dated the twelfth day of August, 1858.

“The condition of this obligation is such, that whereas, the said Robert H. Waterman did agree to donate to the county of Solano, for the use of the people thereof, free of charge or cost, the following described land, situated in the town of Fairfield, county of Solano, State of California, and further described as Union Park, a public square in the town of Fairfield, and also four blocks, containing each twelve lots adjoining said park, according to plat of said town, as surveyed by E. H. D’Hemecourt, County Surveyor; these blocks to be selected by the Supervisors of the county, either on the north, east or south side of said park; and further, the said park shall be kept open and free for the use of the public; and further, the proceeds of sales of the four blocks shall be appropriated to the erection of the public buildings of the county; and further, that the County seat of Solano county shall be lawfully located at Fairfield.

Now, therefore, if the said county seat of Solano county shall be lawfully located at said town at the coming election in September next, after date hereof, and if the said Robert H. Waterman shall, and does procure and deliver to the Supervisors of said county a good and sufficient deed to the said Union Park and lots herein described, according to the conditions of this obligation, then, and in that case, the above obligation shall be void; otherwise, of full force.

(Signed) R. H. WATERMAN. [SEAL.]

On the second day of September, 1858, the general election took place,

when the following locations for the county seat were put forth for candidature, with the following result :

Total votes cast.....	1,730
Number of votes for Benicia.....	625
“ “ Fairfield.....	1,029
“ “ Denverton.....	38
“ “ Vallejo.....	10
“ “ Rockville.....	2
“ “ Suisun.....	26
Total votes.....	1,730

The consequence, therefore, was the triumph of Fairfield over Benicia. It is supposed, and with much reason, that Vallejo in her inmost heart had long borne a grudge against Benicia, for having in 1852 deprived her of the capital and its attendant glories; now, there opened a chance for vengeance, and the votes of the Vallejoites went to swell the list of the voters for Fairfield, notwithstanding that by so doing they moved the county seat further away from them than if they had permitted it to remain at Benicia. In this regard, the *Solano Herald*, then published in that city, announces the disaster in these words :

“In every general engagement, however glorious the bulletin of victory, there necessarily follows the melancholy supplement of casualties.

In the list of killed and wounded in Wednesday's battle, our eye falls mournfully on the name of Benicia—Benicia! the long suffering, mortally wounded, if not dead—killed by Vallejo's unsparing hand! That the people of Suisun and the adjoining region should have desired a removal of the county seat, was by no means surprising; but Vallejo! *et tu Brute!* In the house of our friends we were wounded.

While we hold in grateful remembrance the majority of the citizens of Vallejo, let us not forget those aspiring gentlemen who dealt us the deadly blow. ‘Lord keep our memory green,’ for good and evil.”

The grass was not allowed to grow under the feet of the Supervisors. In October following, a brick building erected at Fairfield, by Captain Waterman, for County Clerk and Treasurer's offices, was completed and handed over to them, and at once occupied; while at the Board meeting held January 22, 1859, Mr. Waterman's bond, quoted above, with all its provisions, was accepted. Tenders were at once advertised for to construct the necessary edifices, when, at a Supervisorial *sederunt* held on March 14th of that year, the undermentioned bids were ratified :

For Court-house and Jail, Larkin Richardson....	\$24,440 00
For Court-house for temporary use of County....	1,373 00



And on September 1st, the county buildings were handed over to the Board of Supervisors.

In 1862 "An Act to organize townships and regulate their powers and duties, and submit the same to the vote of the people," was approved by the Legislature on May 15th. The provisions of the act were that townships should be corporate bodies and have capacity :

*First*—To sue and be sued in the manner prescribed by law.

*Second*—To purchase and hold lands within its own limits for the use of its inhabitants, and for the promotion of education within the limits of the township.

*Third*—To make such contracts, and to purchase and hold such personal property as may be necessary to the exercise of its corporate and administrative powers.

*Fourth*—To make such orders for the disposition, regulation or use of its corporate property as may be deemed conducive to the interests of its inhabitants.

The corporate powers and duties of these townships were to be vested in a Board of Trustees, to consist of three qualified electors of the township, to be voted for by qualified electors within said township, when, at the same time, were to be elected certain officers for especial service within the township. Such trustees were to be endowed with powers appertaining to the peace, order and good government of the townships to which they were chosen by the public vote, and were to collect taxes, which were to be paid into the office of the County Treasurer. The Act was ordered to be submitted to a vote of the people at the general election. In those counties in which the affirmative should have the majority, the law should take effect ; but in those (like Solano, where the majority against it was sixty-one) in which the negative has the preponderance of votes, the act should not apply or be in force.

At the same election, September 3, 1862, the proposed amendments to the Constitution of California, suggested in the following :

ARTICLE IV—The Legislative Department.

“ V—The Executive Department.

“ VI—The Judicial Department.

“ IX—Education.

were put to the popular voice, with the result as stated below :

Yes.....4,800

No..... 657

Majority for the yeas.....4,143

On August 12, 1863, a petition from O. Bingham and others was presented to the Board of Supervisors, when, in conformity with the prayer therein set forth, it was ordered that a new township be formed, to be called

#### MAINE PRAIRIE,

to be bounded as follows, to wit: commencing at the corners of Sections 7, 8, 17 and 18, in Township 5 N. R. 1 E. of Monte Diablo meridian, and running thence north to the corners of Sections 5, 6, 7 and 8, in Township 6 N. R. 1 E.; thence running east to the eastern limit of Solano county, on the line between ranges 2 and 3 east; thence with said line south to the township line between Townships 5 and 6 north; thence with said line east, to the centre of Sacramento river, the eastern limit of Solano county; thence down Sacramento river and Steamboat or Merritt slough to where the line between townships 4 and 5 crosses said slough; thence with said line west to the centre of Cache Creek slough; thence up said slough to the mouth of Linda slough to the line between ranges 1 and 2 east; thence with said line north to the north-west corner of Section 18, in Township 5 N. R. 2 E.; thence west to the place of beginning.

#### SUISUN TOWNSHIP.

The township heretofore known as Suisun township, is hereby changed to conform to the following description, to-wit: beginning at a point on the southern boundary of Solano county, in Suisun bay, where a section line two inches west of the meridian line, passing over Monte Diablo and running with said line north to the township line between townships 5 and 6 north; thence with said line west to the east boundary of Green Valley township, as previously established; thence with said boundary, southerly, to the south boundary of the county, in Suisun bay; thence with said boundary, easterly, to the place of beginning.

#### VACAVILLE TOWNSHIP.

The township heretofore known as Vacaville township is hereby changed to conform to the following description, to wit: commencing at a point on the Putah creek where the line between ranges 1 and 2 east, crosses said creek, and running thence with said range line south to the southeast corner of Section 1, Township 6 N. R. 1 E.; thence west to corners of sections 5, 6 and 7 and 8 of said township and range; thence south to the corners of Sections 7, 8, 17 and 18, in Township 5 N. R. 1 E.; thence west to the corner of Sections 10, 11, 14 and 15, in Township 5 N. R. 1 W.; thence north to the township line between townships 5 and 6 north; thence with said line west to the western boundary of Solano

county, on the ridge of the Vaca mountains; thence northerly with said ridge to the centre of Putah creek; thence down said creek, and following its sinuosities to the place of beginning.

#### MONTEZUMA TOWNSHIP.

The township heretofore known as Montezuma township, is hereby changed to conform to the following boundaries, to-wit: commencing on the south line of the county of Solano, in Suisun bay, where the section lines two miles west of the meridian line passing on Monte Diablo would intersect said limit, and running thence north to the north-west corner of section number 14, in Township 5 N. R. 1 W.; running thence east to the line between ranges 1 and 2 east; thence south on said line until it intersects the first slough or fork of Linda slough; thence down said slough to Cache Creek slough; thence down Cache Creek slough to where the line between townships numbers 4 and 5 north, intersects said slough; thence with said line east to the eastern boundary of the county, on Steamboat, or Merritt slough; thence with said boundary and following its sinuosities to the place of beginning.

#### TREMONT TOWNSHIP.

The township heretofore known as Tremont township, is hereby changed to conform to the following description: commencing at the south-west corner of Section number 6, Township 6 N. R. 2 E. of the meridian and base of Monte Diablo, and running thence north on the line between ranges 1 and 2 east, to the centre of Putah Creek, the northern limit of Solano county; thence with said limit eastward, to the eastern limit of said county, in the line between ranges 2 and 3 east; thence with said limit south, to the south-east corner of Section number 1, in Township 6 N. R. 2 E.; thence east to the place of beginning.

There was still some difficulty in conforming the townships into something like natural and equable divisions; the supervisors, therefore, on February 6, 1866, ordered "that the following described portion of Tremont township be set off and attached to Vacaville township, and the boundaries of said townships hereafter shall conform to this change. Said portion is described as follows: beginning on the eastern boundary line of said Vacaville Township 7 N. R. 2 E., and running thence east on the Government line two miles; thence north six miles; thence west two miles, to the north-west corner of said township 7, on said boundary line of said Vacaville township, and thence south on said line six miles to the point of beginning.

On June 27th of the same year the county was again distributed into townships, as under:

## BENICIA TOWNSHIP.

The township known as Benicia township is hereby laid down so as to conform to the following boundaries, to wit: commencing at the south-west corner of a tract of land purchased by Robert Semple and Thomas O. Larkin from M. G. Vallejo, and on a part of which is situated the city of Benicia, from thence with the western boundary of said tract of land to the north-west corner of the same; thence in an easterly direction to where the line of said tract intersects the boundary of the stone purchase known as the stone line; thence along said stone line in a northerly direction until the same intersects the north line of Section 34, Township 4 N. R. 3 W.; thence east on north line of Sections 31 and 32, Township 4 N. R. 2 W., continuing east to Cordelia slough; thence down said slough to Suisun slough; thence down Suisun slough to Suisun bay; thence down said bay and Straits of Carquinez to a point due south of the point of beginning.

## VALLEJO TOWNSHIP.

The township known as Vallejo township is hereby laid down so as to conform to the following boundaries, to-wit: commencing at the south-west corner of a certain tract of land purchased by Robert Semple and Thomas O. Larkin from M. G. Vallejo, and commonly known as the Benicia tract; thence with the western boundary line of said tract to the north-west corner of the same; thence easterly to where the line of said tract intersects the boundary of the stone purchase known as the stone line; thence along said stone line in a northerly direction until the same intersects the north line of Section 34, Township 4 N. R. 3 W.; thence west on said north line to the intersection of said line with the boundary line of Napa and Solano counties; thence south along said county boundary line to a mound of stones established by R. Norris; thence due west along said boundary line between Napa and Solano counties to Napa bay; thence down said bay and up the Straits of Carquinez, including Mare Island, to the south-west corner of Benicia township; thence due north to the place of beginning.

## GREEN VALLEY.

The township known as Green Valley township, is hereby laid down so as to conform to the following boundaries, to-wit: Commencing at a rock mound on the crest of hills on Section 34, Township 4 N. R. 3 W. established by R. Norris for a boundary between Napa and Solano counties; thence northerly along the boundary line of said counties, to the north line of Township 5 N. R. 3 W.; thence east along said township line to the dividing ridge running to the peak called "Twin Sisters;" thence southerly along said divide to Suisun creek, passing on the line of A. Blake and William Brown's land; thence down said creek to the south-east corner of



Hiram Macy's land; thence south to the north line of Section 16, Township 4 N. R. 2 W.; thence west to Cordelia slough; thence down said slough to the north line of Sections 31 and 32, Township 4 N. R. 2 W.; thence west along said north line to the boundary line of Solano and Napa counties.

#### SUISUN TOWNSHIP.

The township known as Suisun township is hereby laid down so as to conform to the following boundaries, to-wit: Beginning at the mouth of Cordelia slough, thence up said slough to a point due west of the north line of Section 16, Township 4 N. R. 2 W.; thence east to a point due south of the south-east corner of Hiram Macy's land; thence north to the mouth of the Suisun creek; thence up said creek to the line of Alexander Blake's and William Brown's land; thence northerly along the ridge or divide running to the peaks called "Twin Sisters;" thence northerly along said divide to the county line; thence easterly along the county line to the top of the ridge at the south-east corner of Napa county; thence easterly on the boundary of the Armijo rancho to the north-east corner of Section 3, Township 5 N. R. 1 W.; thence south on section lines to the main Suisun bay; thence westerly along said bay to the mouth of Suisun creek; thence up said creek to the mouth of Cordelia slough, the place of beginning.

#### VACAVILLE TOWNSHIP.

That a township be established to be known as the Vacaville township, commencing at the north-east corner of Section 18, Township 5 N. R. 1 E.; thence west on section lines to the south-west corner of Section 3, Township 5 N. R. 1 W.; thence north to the north-east corner of Section 3, Township 5 N. R. 1 W.; thence west on the township line to the boundary of the Armijo rancho at the north-west corner of said township; thence north and west, following said boundary to the county line at the south-east corner of Napa county; thence northerly along the boundary between Napa and Solano counties to Putah creek; thence down said creek to a point one mile west of Mount Diablo meridian; thence south on section lines to the south-west corner of Section number 1, Township 6 N. R. 1 W.; thence east two miles; thence south to the place of beginning.

#### SILVEYVILLE TOWNSHIP.

That a township be established to be known as the Silveyville township, and to conform to the following boundaries, to wit: Beginning at the south-east corner of Section number 5, Township 6 N. R. 2 E.; thence west to the south-west corner of Section number 1, Township 6 N. R. 1 W.; thence north to the county line, centre of Putah creek; thence easterly down said creek to the line between ranges 1 and 2 east; thence south on

said line to the northwest corner of Section 7, Township 7 N. R. 2 E.; thence east to the north-east corner of Section number 8, Township 7 N. R. 2 E.; thence south to the place of beginning.

#### TREMONT TOWNSHIP.

That a township be established to be known as Tremont township, and to conform to the following boundaries, to wit: Beginning at the south-east corner of Section number 5, Township 6 N. R. 2 E.; thence north six miles to the south-east corner of Section number 5, Township 7 N. R. 2 E.; thence west two miles to the line between ranges 1 and 2 E.; thence north to the centre of Putah creek at the county line; thence easterly down said creek to the east line of the county on the line between ranges 2 and 3 east; thence with said line south to the south-east corner of Section 1, Township 6 N. R. 2 E.; thence west to the place of beginning.

#### MAINE PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP.

That a township be established to be known as Maine Prairie township, and to conform to the following boundaries, to wit: Beginning at the north-west corner of Section 17, Township 5 N. R. 1 E.; thence north to the north-west corner of Section 8, Township 6 N. R. 1 E.; thence east to the east line of Solano county; then with the said county line south to the line between townships 5 and 6 north; thence along said line east to the north-west corner of Section number 4, Township 5 N. R. 3 E.; thence south to the southwest corner of Section number 21, Township 5 N. R. 3 E.; thence west to Prospect slough; then up Cache slough to Linda slough; then up Linda slough to the line between ranges 1 and 2 east; thence north on said line to the north-west corner of Section number 18, Township 5 N. R. 2 E.; thence west to the place of beginning.

#### RIO VISTA TOWNSHIP.

That a township be established to be known as Rio Vista township, and to conform to the following boundaries, to wit: Commencing on the Sacramento river at the point where the section line, one mile east of the township line between Townships 1 and 2 east, intersect the river; thence running north on said line until it intersects Linda slough; thence down said slough to Cache slough; thence down said slough to Prospect slough; thence up Prospect slough to the section line of Section 17, Township 5 N. R. 3 E.; thence east to the south-east corner of said section; thence north on said section line to the Yolo county line; thence east on said county line to the Sacramento river; thence down the river to the place of beginning.

## MONTEZUMA TOWNSHIP.

That a township be established to be known as Montezuma township, and to conform to the following boundaries, to wit: Beginning at the Sacramento river on the line between ranges 1 and 2 east, Mount Diablo meridian; thence down said river and Suisun bay to the line between Sections 22 and 23, Township 3 N. R. 1 W.; thence north on section lines to the north-west corner of Section number 35, Township 4 N. R. 1 W.; thence east to the north-west corner of Section 32, R. 2 E.; thence south to the Sacramento river; thence down said river to the place of beginning.

## DENVERTON TOWNSHIP.

That a township be established to be known as Denver-ton township, and to conform to the following boundaries, to wit: Beginning at the north-west corner of Section number 32, Township 4 N. R. 2 E.; thence west on section lines to the north-west corner of Section 35, Township 4 N. R. 1 W.; thence north to the north-west corner of Section number 14, township 5 N. R. 1 W.; thence east to the north-west corner of Section number 18, Township 5 N. R. 2 E.; thence south to the south fork of Linda slough; thence down said slough to the east line of Section number 19, Township 5 N. R. 2 E.; thence south to the place of beginning.

The western boundary line of this township was, however, subsequently changed on May 4, 1868, to the Mount Diablo meridian line, and on November 10, 1870, it was ordered by the Board of Supervisors that "Robinson's Island, and being a portion of Sections numbers 3 and 24, in Township 4 N. R. 1 W., Meridian of Mount Diablo, be and is set over as part of Denver-ton township," while on May 22, of the following year the under mentioned district was planned and authorized.

## ELMIRA TOWNSHIP.

It was ordered that a new township be formed out of portions of Vacaville, Silveyville, and Maine Prairie townships as follows, to wit: "Beginning at the south-west corner of the south-east quarter of Section number 3, Township 5 N. R. 1 W., Mount Diablo meridian and base; running thence north seven miles to the quarter-section corner on the north line of Section 3, Township 6 N. R. 1 W.; thence along said township line six miles; thence along quarter-section lines south seven miles to the quarter-section corner on the south line of Section number 3, Township 5 N. R. 1 E.; thence west six miles along the section lines to the point of beginning. And it is further ordered that the said township be known and designated as Elmira township."

On August 8, 1872, the boundary line between Silveyville and Vacaville townships was changed to conform to the following: "Commencing at a



point on the north and south line between Silveyville and Vacaville townships, and at the corner of Sections numbers 1, 2, 11, and 12, in Township number 7 N. R. 1 W., Mount Diablo meridian; thence west five miles to line between ranges 1 and 2 west; thence north one mile, more or less, to Putah creek; thence along and down said creek to where the present line of Silveyville township intercepts the same; be and the same is hereby set over to and become part of said Silveyville township." It was then also ordered that the western boundary of Suisun township be and the same is as follows, to wit: "Commencing at a point on the north line of Section 3, Township 5 N. R. 1 W., which point is the intersection of the boundary line of Elmira township; thence south on half-section line one mile to the southern line of Section 3, Township 5 N. R. 1 W.; thence east on section line two and one-half miles to Mount Diablo meridian line; thence south on said meridian line to the southern boundary line of Solano county."

With this last adjustment of the boundaries the distribution of townships was so far completed, and leaves these twelve districts as the present partition of the county.

In 1873 Vallejo had a sudden accession of success, and the conception of having the county seat moved thither took permanent shape by the presentation of a petition by E. H. Sawyer and others to the Board of Supervisors on September 23, praying that a public vote should be taken in this regard. On the sounding of Vallejo's trumpet the other towns and cities sniffed the battle from afar, champed their bits and tossed their flowing manes. A bitter fight waged between the newspapers of the county, while Benicia and her cohorts vented every conceivable argument, not so much that she might be once more endowed with the county honors, but that she should prevent the acquisition of so great a triumph to her former enemy. She had not forgotten the stormy days of 1858. Leader after leader and argument upon argument appeared in the public prints; meetings were held all over the county, while in Vallejo an executive county seat committee was appointed, having as its officers Messrs. J. B. Frisbie, President; E. H. Sawyer, Vice-President; J. B. Robinson, Secretary; J. K. Duncan, Treasurer, who framed the following address to the citizens of Solano county, which we cull from the columns of the "Solano Democrat" of that period:

Your attention is invited to the following reasons why the county seat of Solano county should be removed from Fairfield to Vallejo:

*First*—It is evident to all who have given the matter any thought, that Fairfield cannot be the permanent county seat of a great and growing county like Solano.

The entire lack of accommodations for the persons attending court, and

the fact that those accommodations are growing worse as the town continues to decay, and that there is no hope of any improvement, is a matter of consideration.

We cannot compare the dreary, treeless plain upon which our county seat is located, and meagre accommodation for visitors, with the pleasant location and ample quarters provided by other counties, without a feeling of shame. The great county of Solano will not always endure this.

*Second*—Assuming, then, that a change in the county seat must ultimately come, we say that it should come now. An immediate expenditure of many thousand dollars will be necessary to make the present county buildings answer the purpose for which they were designed. Fire-proof rooms or vaults must be provided for the county records, and the papers and records of the courts. It is criminal to neglect this longer. Consider the confusion, the litigation, the utter ruin that would result from the destruction of the records of our courts and of our titles. And yet at present they are scarcely more secure than they would be in an ordinary frame-house. Is it wise to make these extensive improvements upon buildings which in a few years at most must be abandoned? Is it not best that the change should be made now, and a new location selected which shall be permanent, that the county may derive some lasting advantage from the expenditure of its money?

*Third*—If the location of a county seat for our county was a new question, there would be no doubt of the propriety of adopting Vallejo. A line of railroad traverses the whole length of the county, terminating at Vallejo. Regular water communication can always be had from Rio Vista, Collinsville, and Benicia, to Vallejo, enabling the inhabitants of these places to reach the county seat at all seasons of the year without interruption from floods or impassable roads; and that other and large class of tax-payers and property-owners of our county, who reside in San Francisco and other counties, would be best accommodated at Vallejo.

Vallejo is now, and promises in all future to be, the leading town in the county. It has good streets and sidewalks, convenient means to travel and good hotels, and is, indeed, the only place in the county capable of furnishing accommodations for the large number of people who are at any time liable to be called together by an important term of our District Court.

The only two arguments that can be urged in favor of retaining the county seat at Fairfield, are these: 1st. That it is near the geographical center of the county. 2nd. The expense of its removal. The first of these reasons, to-wit, its central position—if it was good at the time the county seat was located at Fairfield, when people came from all parts of the county in carriages or on horseback, no longer holds good. The days of stage-

coaches are passed. New means of travel have sprung up, and geographical centers have given way to centers of travel. The whole population of the county could rally at Vallejo at less expense, and greater ease and comfort, than at any other point in the county, and could live more comfortably while here. As a rule, county seats are not located in the center of counties. Sacramento City, Stockton, Oakland, Marysville, Yuba City, Napa City and San Rafael, are not situated at the geographical centers of the respective counties of which they are the county seats.

As to the second objection, in respect to the cost of removal. The present county buildings are said to have cost forty thousand dollars, and cannot be estimated at present at a higher valuation than twenty-five thousand dollars. The City of Vallejo and its citizens have bound themselves by proper guarantees: 1st. To furnish, free of cost, suitable office room for county officers, court-rooms and jail, until the permanent county buildings are built. 2nd. That they will donate to the county the necessary grounds for the location of county buildings, to be selected by the Board of Supervisors of Solano County. 3rd. They pledge themselves to use all their influence with the Board of Supervisors to restrict the expenditure for the erection of county buildings (which will be the sole expenditure of the county) to fifty thousand dollars; and they offer the guarantee of their most responsible citizens, and the City of Vallejo, that buildings shall be built (according to a plan now on exhibition at the City Hall, in Vallejo, copies of which will be sent to each precinct in the county), suitable for the county for many years to come, and vastly superior to the present buildings, for the sum of fifty thousand dollars. And the payment of this small amount need not be made at once. Bonds may be issued bearing seven per cent. interest, payable in twenty years, and an annual tax of five thousand dollars will pay the interest and leave a large surplus towards the extinguishment of the debt. Estimate the taxable property in the county at ten millions of dollars, which is about the present figure, the man who owns a thousand dollars worth of property will be taxed the sum of fifty cents per annum for the removal of the county seat. How insignificant is this sum compared with the great advantages to be derived.

All that we ask of the voters of Solano county is, that they will consider this question dispassionately and without prejudice, looking only to the best good of the whole county in the future, and we are satisfied they will agree with us that the county seat should be immediately removed to Vallejo.

On the 9th of October, 1873, the question of removal was brought before the Board of Supervisors, but there being a question existing of how many of the names which were annexed to the petition were those of *bona fide* voters, forty or fifty names were selected, making the total number of signatures 1,097, leaving 300 to be still examined.



Naturally, Suisun, from its proximity to Fairfield, was on the side of non-removal; therefore, every stone was turned to gain their point. Counsel was engaged on her side who urged, under the provisions of the law, in the event of the county seat being once removed, a petition for a second removal must contain a number of signatures equal to one-third the names on the great register; that the county seat of Solano had been already removed from Benicia to Fairfield, and that the present case came within the provisions of the law. The examination of the last great register of the county, they stated, shows a total of 5,600 names, one-third of which was 1,867. The counsel, therefore, submitted that the number of signatures was inadequate, and that in consequence, the petition was invalid.

It was finally decided by the Board that the number already passed upon was sufficient, and an order was made premising with the recitation that a petition had been presented to their body, praying that an election, to determine the place of the county seat, might be held; that said petition contained 1,325 names; and that so far as examined, they had found upon it 1,097 legal names; and that the same being more than one-third of the number of votes, they therefore ordered, in accordance with the prayer of the petitioners, an election to be held on the last Wednesday in November. A protest from the counsel for Suisun was spread upon the minutes, stating in substance, that on such a day the county seat was removed from Benicia to Fairfield: that the archives of the county and county officers were ordered there; that the Great Register of the county contained 5,000 uncanceled names at the time, and that it required one-third of that number of signatures to constitute a legal petition for an election, which number was not on the petition upon which the Board had taken action.

The "Weekly Solano Republican," published at Suisun, writing on October 30, 1873, remarks: "We object to the removal, because—

*First*—The county seat is centrally located now, which makes the expense and trouble of reaching the seat of justice more nearly equal to all than any other location can; and we deny the justice of any arrangement which makes any man pay two dollars, or travel two miles, in order that two, or ten other men, may save one dollar each, or avoid travelling one mile each.

*Second*—The county now possesses, unincumbered by debt, buildings fully adequate to its wants for the next ten years; and we denounce the policy which will add the cost of even less serviceable buildings to the heavy debt the county is now carrying and groaning under.

*Third*—The removal of the county seat will work a huge injustice to a very large majority of the tax-payers of the county, whether the cost of removal be much or little. Vallejo contains half of the population of the county, but only one-third of the taxable property; and whatever may be the cost of removal, two-thirds of that expense will be paid by that half of the population, whose interest will be injured by the removal."



*John W. Frisbie*





At length the long looked for election day—November 26, 1873—arrived and ended, the ballot showing at its close, a majority for Vallejo over Fairfield, of 333. Benicia's rancor was of no avail; but retribution was near at hand. It was directed that the county offices should be removed on February 9, 1874, to Vallejo, and that that city be declared the county seat, through the public newspapers. In time a few of the offices were carried thence, notably those of residents in that city, when arrangements were made for the temporary location of the several departments.

But the northern part of the county had conceived the reasonable idea that the election of Vallejo was not carried out in as clear and straightforward a manner as it should have been; they, therefore, proceeded to Sacramento, and while the Legislature was in session, had a bill passed through both the Assembly and Senate, creating Vallejo into a county seat in its own right, since it was so ambitious of provincial honors. This, to the eyes of the Governor, seemed too preposterous a scheme, acknowledging at the same time the justice of the objections, he, therefore, vetoed the bill, but informed the complainants that another one, locating the county seat at Fairfield, would be favorably considered. Thus, for the present, all heart-burnings were ameliorated, and ruffles smoothed, and the question finally set at rest by the Act of the Legislature, approved March 28, 1874, whose first section pronounces the doom of Vallejo, in the following verdict: "*The county seat of Solano County shall be Fairfield, in said county.*"

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### THE SETTLEMENT OF SOLANO COUNTY.

In the old days, long ago, somewhere in the year 1817, as has been shown in another part of this work, Jose Sanchez, then a Lieutenant in the Spanish Army, was despatched with a small force to subjugate the Suisun tribe of Indians, an expedition which was attended with but little loss on one side, and sad havoc on the other. As time dragged out its weary course, but little was gained; the aboriginals were coerced into the service of their taskmasters, and without doubt endured many a torture of mind and body, when brought under the yoke of the Mexican Government. It is not for a moment to be imagined that, though the savages were driven into bondage, they suffered all the distress supposed to be a part and parcel of their thralldom; this is not the case; for General Vallejo, who had the lands of Suscol granted to him, held as lenient a sway over his aboriginal vassals as was possible under the circumstances; and, indeed, was the first to prove the soothing influences of even a partial civilization; yet, these people have now vanished, whither it is impossible to trace; the advent of a dominant race was more than they could cope with; hence, they are nowhere to be

found; and it is only at distances, few and far between, that traces of their former locations are to be discovered. It is believed that those who inhabited the valleys with which we have especially to deal, were thinned by the hostilities in which they were engaged with the Spaniards, materially aided by a decimating scourge of small-pox that carried off numbers of the half-fed and ill-clothed savages. This epidemic broke out in the year 1839, and such was the devastation which ensued that almost an entire race was shipwrecked, leaving but few survivors of the catastrophe. They died so rapidly that the usual funeral rites were abandoned: huge pits were dug, and the pestilential corpses placed therein by twenties while they were covered up, when filled, with a rude mound of earth; many of them forsook the land of their birth, now become accursed on account of the presence of the odious intruder; their wives and daughters, by the maltreatment received at the hands of these half-civilized soldiers from the Spanish Main, had ceased to bear children, and thus they drifted out of ken, until now they are a thing of the past, their presence in Solano County being at best but a memory which only lingers in the mind of the early pioneer.

A short distance from the small town of Rockville, situated at the foot of Suisun valley, on the property of Lewis Pierce, stood a rude cross, which was popularly believed to mark the resting place of Sem-Yeto, otherwise Francis Solano, the Chief of the Suisuns. It is said that this tribe removed in 1850 to Napa county, taking with them all their grain, to the amount of several hundreds of bushels which had been held in reserve in their rude granaries near the above-mentioned site. This exodus would appear to mark the arrival of the hated white man.

It has long been, and in all human probability, it will be many a year before it shall be authentically decided who was the first settler in Solano county. That General Vallejo and his troops were the actual pioneers of the district now known as Solano, is conceded on every hand; but they can scarcely be classed among the settlers, for though a great district of some ninety thousand acres had been granted to him by the Mexican Government, still, he never had, until later, any actual domicile in the county, his residence being at Sonoma, whither he had been ordered to fix his headquarters, and lay out a town.

The people immediately succeeding the aboriginal Indians were Spaniards; or, more properly speaking, natives of Mexico, a race who were by no means calculated to improve and lay out a new country. Born in a warm and enervating climate, they were prone to pass their days in indolence. To be able to get sufficient food to allay the pangs of hunger and enough of water to assuage their thirst was to them satiety. In their own land they had made no change, nor in any way advanced their home interests by any civilizing influence save that of a forced Christianity, since the days when Montezuma was so barbarously and treacherously murdered by Cortez

and his pirate crew ; therefore, this country wherein they had cast their lot, was allowed to rest in its state of tangled confusion. Happily all of those who came from this southern clime were not of this somniferous kind, as the following remarks will show. The Baca (now pronounced *Vaca*, and in some law deeds Americanized into *Barker*) and Peña family arrived in Los Angeles, and after a residence of one year, came, in 1841, to the valley which now bears the name of the former, and there settled, building adobe houses for themselves ; that of Juan Felipe Peña being constructed in Laguna (Lagoon) valley, and Manuel Baca's about one mile north-east therefrom. These structures still stand on their original sites, the former being occupied by the widow of Peña, while the latter is the dwelling of Westley Hill. In the succeeding year (1842) there arrived the Armijo family, who took up their grant in the Suisun valley, built an adobe, and entered into residence about five miles north-west of Fairfield, the present county seat. With these three families to take the lead, others, as a matter of course, followed, not so much to labor in their own interests and toil for their wealthier fellows, but that they loved the *dolce far niente* mode of living to be found on the Haciendas of the rich. A certain amount of state was maintained by the rancheros of those days, which they had learned from the splendor-loving cavaliers of old Spain ; they seldom moved abroad ; but when they did, it was upon a handsomely caparisoned horse, with attendant out-riders, armed, to protect their lord from wild animals, which infested the country. The earlier locators of land brought with them herds of cattle, which, in the natural sequence of things, became roving bands of untamed animals that provided the Spanish master and his servile crew with meat ; while enough grain was not so much cultivated as grown, to to keep them in food, as it were, from day to day. Their mode of traveling was entirely on horseback ; accomodation there was none ; when halting for the night, an umbrageous tree was their roof ; the fertile valleys their stable and pasture ; while, when food was required, to slay an ox or a deer, was the matter of a few moments.

Mention has been made of the adobe houses of the early Californians. Let us consider one of these primitive dwellings : Its construction was beautiful in its extreme simplicity. The walls were fashioned of large sun-dried bricks, made of that black loam known to settlers in the Golden State as adobe soil, mixed with straw, with no particularity as to species, measuring about eighteen inches square and three in thickness ; these were cemented with mud, plastered within with the same substance, and white-washed when finished. The rafters and joists were of rough timber, with the bark simply peeled off and placed in the requisite position, while the residence of the wealthier classes were roofed with tiles of a convex shape, placed so that the one should overlap the other and thus make a watershed ; or, later, with shingles, the poor cententing themselves with a thatch



of *tule*, fastened down with thongs of bullocks' hide. The former modes of covering were expensive—the Peña family, it is said, having given a man a considerable piece of land for shingling their house—and none but the opulent could afford the luxury of tiles. When completed, however, these mud dwellings will stand the brunt, and wear and tear of many decades, as can be evidenced by the number which are still occupied in out-of-the-way corners of the county.

Thus were these solitary denizens of what is now the prolific garden known as Solano county, housed in the midst of scenery which no pen can describe nor limner paint. The county, be it in what valley soever we wot, was one interminable grain field; mile upon mile, acre after acre, the wild oats grew in marvelous profusion, in many places to a prodigious height—one great glorious green of wild waving corn—high over head of the way-farer on foot and shoulder high with the equestrian. Wild flowers of every prismatic shade charmed the eye, while they vied with each other in the gorgeousness of their colors and blended into dazzling splendor. One breath of wind and the wide emerald expanse rippled itself into space, while with a heavier breeze came a swell whose waves beat against the mountain sides, and, being hurled back, were lost in the far-away horizon. Shadow pursued shadow in a long merry chase. The air was filled with the hum of bees, the chirruping of birds, an overpowering fragrance from the various plants, causing the smallest sounds, in the extreme solitude, to become like the roar of the ocean.

The hill-sides, overrun as they were with a dense mass of almost impenetrable chapparal, were hard to penetrate; trees of a larger growth struggled for existence in isolated sterile spots. On the plains but few oaks of any size were to be seen, a reason for this being found in the devastating influence of the prairie fires, which were of frequent occurrence, thus destroying the young shoots as they sprouted from the earth; while the flames, with their forked tongues, scorched the older ones, utterly destroying them, leaving those only to survive the rude attack which were well advanced in years.

This almost boundless range was intersected throughout with trails whereby the traveler moved from point to point, progress being, as it were, in darkness on account of the height of the oats on either side, and rendered dangerous in the lower valleys by the bands of wild cattle, sprung from the stock introduced by the first settlers. These found food and shelter on the plains during the night; at dawn of day they repaired to the higher grounds to chew the cud and bask in the sunshine. At every yard, cayotes sprang from the feet of the voyager. The hissing of snakes, the frightened rush of lizards, all tended to heighten the sense of danger; while the flight of quail, the nimble run of the rabbit, and the stampede of antelope and elk, which abounded in thousands, added to the charm, making him, be he



whosoever he may, pedestrian or equestrian, feel the utter insignificance of man, the "noblest work of God."

At this time, as now, the rivers, creeks, and sloughs swarmed with fish of various kinds that had not, as yet, been rudely frightened by the whirl of civilization. The water at the Green Valley Falls, that favorite picnic resort of to-day, then leaped as it e'en does now from crag to crag, splashing back its spray in many a sparkle. Then, the shriek of the owl, the howl of the panther, or the gruff growl of the grizzly was heard. Now, the scene is changed; it has ceased to be the lair of the wild beast, but civilization has introduced the innocent prattle of children, and the merry tones of womanhood, causing one to stay and ponder which be best, the former wild solitude, or the pleasing pleasant present sunshine of sparkling voices and sparkling water.

Let us here introduce the following interesting *resume* of the experiences of the first of America's sons who visited California :

#### THE AMERICAN PIONEERS OF CALIFORNIA.

The following interesting record of the adventures of the first American argonauts of California is abridged from an article which appeared in "The Pioneer" in the year 1855 :

The first Americans that arrived in California, overland, were under the command of Jehediah S. Smith, of New York. Mr. Smith accompanied the first trapping and trading expedition, sent from St. Louis to the head waters of the Missouri by General Ashley. The ability and energy displayed by him, as a leader of parties engaged in trapping beaver, were considered of so much importance by General Ashley that he soon proposed to admit him as a partner in the Rocky Mountain Fur Company. The proposal was accepted and the affairs of the concern were subsequently conducted by the firm of Ashley & Smith until 1828, when Mr. William L. Sublette and Mr. Jackson, who had been engaged in the same business in the mountains, associated themselves with Mr. Smith and bought out General Ashley. They continued the business under the name of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company until the summer of 1830, when they retired from the mountains, disposing of their property and interest in the enterprise to Messrs. Fitzpatrick, Bridger, Solomon, Sublette, and Trapp. Mr. W. L. Sublette subsequently re-engaged in the business.

In the spring of 1826 Mr. Smith, at the head of a party of about twenty-five men, left the winter quarters of the company to make a spring and fall hunt. Traveling westerly he struck the source of the Green river, which he followed down to its junction with Grand river, where the two form the Colorado. He there left the river and, traveling westerly, approached the Sierra Nevada of California. When traveling in that direction in search of a favorable point to continue his exploration towards the ocean, he crossed

the mountains and descended into the great valley of California near its south-eastern extremity; thus being not only the first American, but the first person who, from the east or north, had entered the magnificent valleys of the San Joaquin and Sacramento, or who had ever seen or explored any of the rivers falling into the bay of San Francisco.

The following winter and spring he prosecuted with success the catching of beaver, on the streams flowing into the lakes of the Tulares, on the San Joaquin and tributaries, as also on some of the lower branches of the Sacramento. At the commencement of summer, the spring hunt having closed, he essayed to return, by following up the American river; but the height of the mountains, and other obstacles which he encountered, induced him to leave the party in the valley during the summer. He accordingly returned; and, having arranged their summer quarters on that river, near the present town of Brighton, prepared to make the journey, accompanied by a few well tried and hardy hunters, to the summer rendezvous of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, on the eastern slope of the Rocky mountains. Selecting favorite and trusty horses and mules, Mr. Smith, with three companions, left camp to undertake one of the most arduous and dangerous journeys ever attempted. Ascending the Sierra Nevada, he crossed it at a point of elevation so great, that on the night of the 27th of June, most of his mules died from intense cold. He descended the eastern slope of the mountains, and entered upon the thirsty and sterile plains that were spread out before him in all their primitive nakedness; but his horses were unable to accomplish the journey.

Next to the Bedouin of the great African desert, if not equally with him, the trapper of the wilds of the American continent worships the noble horse, which not only proudly carries his owner up to the huge bison, when hunger presses the hunter, and swiftly flees from the overpowering horde of savages who seek his life; but while the solitary, benighted, and fatigued hunter snatches a few shreds of repose, stands a trusty sentinel, with ears erect and penetrating eye, to catch the first movement of every object within its view, or with distended nostril, to inhale the odor of the red man with which the passing breeze is impregnated, and arouse his affectionate master. What, then, were the feelings of these men, as they saw their favorite steeds, which had long been their companions, and had been selected for their noble bearing, reeling and faltering on those inhospitable plains. Still worse when they were compelled to sever the brittle thread of life, and dissolve all those attachments and vivid hopes of future companionship and usefulness by the use of the rifle, which, at other times, with unerring aim, would have sent death to the man who should attempt to deprive them of their beloved animals.

They hastily cut from the lifeless bodies a few pieces of flesh, as the only means of sustaining their own existence; and in this manner they supported life until they passed the desert and arrived on foot at the rendezvous.

A party was immediately organized, and, with such supplies as were required for the company, left for California, Mr. Smith hastening his departure. Traveling south, to avoid in some degree the snow and cold of winter, he descended and crossed Grand river, of the Colorado, and, continuing south-westerly, he approached the Colorado river from the east, near the camp of the Mohave Indians. In the attempt to transport his party, by means of rafts, over this river, in which he was aided by the Mohaves, who professed great friendship and hospitality, he was suddenly surprised by the treacherous Indians, who, upon a pre-concerted signal, simultaneously attacked the men who were on each bank of the river, and upon a raft then crossing, massacred the party, with the exception of two men and Mr. Smith, who escaped, and after great suffering arrived at the Mission of San Gabriel, in California. They were immediately arrested by the military officer at that place, because they had no passports. This functionary forwarded an account of the arrival and detention of the foreigners to the commandant of San Diego, who transmitted the same to General Echandia, then Governor and Commander-in-Chief of California.

After a harassing delay Mr. Smith was permitted to proceed to Monterey, and appear before the Governor. Through the influence and pecuniary assistance of Captain John Cooper, an American, then resident of Monterey, he was liberated, and having procured such supplies as could be obtained in that place, partially on account of beaver-fur to be sent from the summer quarters on the Sacramento river, and partly on credit, he hired a few men and proceeded to the camp of the party which he had previously left in the Sacramento valley. After forwarding the fur to Monterey, he travelled up the Sacramento, making a most successful hunt up this river and its tributaries within the valley. Ascending the western sources of the Sacramento, he passed Shasta mountain, when he turned westerly and arrived on the coast, which he followed south to the Umpqua river. While Mr. Smith and two men were in a canoe, with two or three Indians, engaged in examining the river to find a crossing, his camp was unexpectedly surprised by the Indians, who had, up to this time, shown the most friendly disposition, and the entire party, with the exception of one man, were murdered. Mr. Smith and the men with him in the canoe, after wandering many days in the mountains, where they were obliged to secrete themselves by day and travel by night, to avoid the Indians, who were scouring the country in pursuit, succeeded in escaping from their vicinity, and arrived at Fort Vancouver, a post of the Hudson's Bay Company, on the Columbia river. The man who escaped from the camp at the massacre of the party was badly wounded, and without arms to defend himself or procure food, succeeded in sustaining life and making his way through many vicissitudes for a period of thirty-eight days, when he reached Fort Vancouver. On his arrival there Mr. Smith contracted with the superintendent to sell him the large quantity of fur which



had fallen into the hands of the Indians on the Umpqua, provided he would assist in recovering it, and to furnish a guide to lead a trapping party into the Sacramento valley. A company was fitted out under the command of Lieutenant McLeod, which proceeded to the scene of disaster, and after recovering the fur, with which Mr. Smith returned to the fort, continued south, under the guidance of one of Smith's men, to the Sacramento valley, where a most valuable hunt was made. A large number of horses from California were also obtained, with which the party attempted to return in the fall of 1822. In crossing the mountain they were overtaken by a violent snow-storm, in which they lost all their horses. From the hasty and unsuitable manner in which they attempted to secrete their valuable stock of fur from the observation and discovery of the Indians or other body of trappers, it was found in a ruined state by a party sent to convey it to the fort in the following spring, and McLeod was discharged from the service of the company for his imprudence in attempting to cross the mountains so late in the fall.

Another band was fitted out from Fort Vancouver, by the Hudson Bay Co., under Captain Ogden, of New York, who for some time had been in the employ of that corporation, with which Mr. Smith left the fort on his final departure from the Pacific shore, for the rendezvous of the Rocky Mountain Fur Co. This company traveled up Lewis river, in the direction of the South Pass, when Mr. Smith pursuing his journey with a few men, Captain Ogden turned south, and traveling along the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada, entered the valley of the Tulares, on the trail which Smith had made in 1826. McLeod having left the valley before he was encountered by Ogden, who spent the winter of 1828-9, and the following summer returned to the Columbia river with a valuable hunt.

One of the survivors of the massacre of Smith's party on the Rio Colorado remained in California. He was a blacksmith by trade, and obtained employment at the Missions of San Gabriel and San Luis Rey. His name was Galbraith, and while in the mountains previous to his advent to California, was recognized as the most fearless of that brave class of men with whom he was associated. His stature was commanding, and the Indians were awed by his athletic and powerful frame, while the display of his Herculean strength excited the surprise of all. Many were the incidents that occurred in California during his residence, of which he was the principal actor. On one occasion, while employed at the Mission of San Luis Rey, he became riotous while under the exciting influence of *aguardiente*, and was warned that unless he conducted himself with greater propriety it would be necessary to confine him in the guard-house. This served to exasperate instead of to quiet his unruly passions. A corporal with two men were ordered to arrest Galbraith. On their arrival at the shop, they found the follower of Vulcan absorbed in anathemas, which he was pouring forth in rapid succession

against the Reverend Father, soldiers, and neophytes. Having delivered himself he enquired what they wanted. On the corporal's replying that he had been sent to conduct him to the guard-house, Galbraith seized a sledge, and swaying it above his head rushed upon the soldiers, who, intimidated at the gigantic size of the blacksmith, whose broad and deep chest was swelling with infuriated passion, horror stricken fled in dismay. With uplifted hammer he pursued them across the court of the Mission, and to the guard house in front of the Mission, where the affrighted corporal and soldiers arrived among their comrades, closely followed by the terrific mountaineer, who, alike fearless of Spanish soldiers as he had ever been of Indians, drove the trembling forces, a sergeant and twelve men, to their quarters, where they were imprisoned. He then hastily loaded with grape shot a fine piece of artillery which stood in front of the quarters, and directing its mouth towards the Mission, he gathered up the arms which the soldiers in the confusion had abandoned, and prepared to act as exigencies might require. The priest, seeing the course events were taking, sent a messenger to open communications with the victor, who, from the sudden burst of passion and violent exercise had dispelled the effects of the brandy, and with its removal his cholera had subsided.

In the early part of 1839 a company was made up in St. Louis, Missouri, to cross the plains to California consisting of D. G. Johnson, Charles Klein, David D. Dutton and William Wiggins. Fearing the treachery of the Indians this little party determined to await the departure of a party of traders in the employ of the American Fur Company, on their annual tour to the Rocky Mountains. At Westport they were joined by Messrs. Wright, Gegger, a Doctor Wiselzenius and his German companion, and Peter Lasson, as also two missionaries with thier wives and hired man, bound for Oregon, as well as a lot of what were termed fur trappers, bound for the mountains, the entire company consisting of twenty-seven men and two women.

The party proceeded on their journey and in due time arrived at the Platte river, but here their groceries and breadstuff gave out; happily the country was well stocked with food, the bill of fare consisting henceforward of buffalo, venison, cat-fish, suckers, trout, salmon, duck, pheasant, sage-fowl, beaver, hare, horse, grizzly bear, badger and dog. The historian of this expedition thus describes this latter portion of the *menu*. "As much misunderstanding seems to prevail in regard to the last animal alluded to, a particular description of it may not be uninteresting. It is, perhaps, somewhat larger than the ground squirrel of California, is subterranean and gregarious in its habits, living in 'villages;' and from a supposed resemblance in the feet, as well as in the spinal termination, to that of the canine family, it is in popular language known as the prairie dog. But in the imposing technology of the mountain graduate it is styled the *canus prairie cuss*, because its cussed holes so often cause the hunter to be unhorsed when engaged in the chase."



After enduring a weary journey, accompanied by the necessary annoyances from treacherous and pilfering Souix, hail-storms, sand-storms, rain and thunder-storms, our voyagers arrived at Fort Hall, where they were disappointed at not being able to procure a guide to take them to California. This was almost a death-blow to the hopes of the intrepid travelers; but having learned of a settlement on the Willamette river, they concluded to proceed thither in the following spring, after passing the winter at this fort. Here Klein and Doctor Wiselzenius determined to retrace their steps; thus the party was now reduced to five in number — Johnson going ahead and leaving for the Sandwich Islands. In September, 1839, the party reached Oregon, and sojourned there during the winter of that year; but in May, 1840, a vessel arrived with Missionaries from England, designing to touch at California on her return, Mr. William Wiggins, now of Monterey, the narrator of this expedition, and his three companions from Missouri, among whom was Mr. David D. Dutton, now a resident of Vacaville township, in Solano county, got on board; but Mr. W., not having a dollar, saw no hope to get away; as a last resort, he sent to one of the passengers, a comparative stranger, for the loan of sixty dollars, the passage-money, when, to his great joy and surprise, the money was furnished — a true example of the spontaneous generosity of those early days. There were three passengers from Oregon, and many others who were “too poor to leave.” In June, they took passage in the “Lausenne,” and were three weeks in reaching Baker’s bay, a distance of only ninety miles. On July 3rd, they left the mouth of the Columbia, and, after being out thirteen days, arrived at Bodega, now in Sonoma county, but then a harbor in possession of the Russians. Here a dilemma arose of quite a threatening character. The Mexican Commandant sent a squad of soldiers to prevent the party from landing, as they wished to do, for the captain of the vessel had refused to take them farther on account of want of money. At this crisis, the Russian Governor arrived, and ordered the soldiers to leave, be shot down, or go to prison; they, therefore, beat a retreat. Here were our travelers, at a stand-still, with no means of proceeding on their journey, or of finding their way out of the inhospitable country; they, therefore, penned the following communication to the American Consul, then stationed at Monterey:

“PORT BODEGA. July 25, 1840.

“*To the American Consul of California:*

“DEAR SIR — We, the undersigned citizens of the United States, being desirous to land in the country, and having been refused a passport, and been opposed by the Government, we write to you, sir, for advice, and claim your protection. Being short of funds, we are not able to proceed further on the ship. We have concluded to land under the protection of the Russians; we will remain there fifteen days, or until we receive an answer from

you, which we hope will be as soon as the circumstances of the case will permit. We have been refused a passport from General Vallejo. Our object is to get to the settlements, or to obtain a pass to return to our own country. Should we receive no relief, we will take up our arms and travel, consider ourselves in an enemy's country, and defend ourselves with our guns.

“ We subscribe ourselves,

“ Most respectfully,

DAVID DUTTON,

JOHN STEVENS,

PETER LASSON,

WM. WIGGINS,

J. WRIGHT.”

To John R. Wolfskill is the honor due of being the first American settler in Solano county. In 1838, his brother William and himself came to Los Angeles, and there remained until 1842, when the former received a grant of four leagues of land, situated on both sides of the Rio de los Putos, which, under a family arrangement, the latter located on in that year. John R. Wolfskill, being, therefore, the actual American pioneer of the county, we have made it our duty to personally consult him by visiting him at his magnificent mansion on Putah creek. Having ridden on horseback from Los Angeles, where he had been laboring for years for a miserable pittance, he drove with him ninety head of cattle, and ultimately arrived at his destination after a weary journey, cheered by no society save the growling of wild beasts and the lowing of his own kine. When he arrived on the northern side of the bay of San Francisco, he made for Napa, and here procured a horse from George Yount, the pioneer of that county, and crossing the mountains, struck into Green valley, and thence into that of Suisun, and thus travelling, passed through the present site of Vacaville, and arrived on the banks of the Putah. On his attaining his haven, the country had the appearance of never having known the foot of man; Indians there were none; cattle there were none save those which he had brought with him; but there were evidences on every hand of bears, and other wild animals. Mr. Wolfskill, inured as he had been to hardship almost from his birth, thought little of these things; he had early served a hunter's craft in the wilds of unsettled Missouri, whither he had accompanied his father in the year 1809, from his native State of Kentucky; had learned the bitterness of being cooped up in Cooper's Fort, now Howard County, Mo., during the war of 1812, and could check-mate the tricky savage at his own game, and prove a match for the ferocious grizzly on his own ground. The first night on his new domain the lonely voyager passed high up on the fork of a tree away from the possible hug of prowling bears and the presence of creeping things; the

dawn found him with gun on shoulder on the search for food ; no time was lost in making arrangements for a permanent location. A position for his future home was chosen on a site near to that where now stands the house of his brother, Sarshel Wolfskill, and, half a mile from his own present dwelling ; what timber was necessary was cut, and in a short time, with the assistance of a stray Indian or Mexican, the pioneer hut was completed, and the energetic backwoodsman had once more the comfort of a roof over his head, with more ample security from the lurking animals without.

At this time Wolfskill's nearest English-speaking neighbors were, on the one hand, at Napa, on the other, at Sutter's Fort, now Sacramento ; distances of forty-five and thirty miles, respectively. Many a time was the never-ending solitude broken by a ride and return on the same day to these places, undertaken simply for the pleasure of a short conversation, which, when accomplished, again would recur a season of prolonged lonesomeness, varied only by the toil of clearing ground, the pursuit of game, and the prosecution of a deadly war with grizzlies, of which Mr. Wolfskill has killed a large number. One evening alone he having, in a distance of a mile and a half, while riding along the course of the Putah creek, sent five to their long account.

Uncle John Wolfskill, as he is familiarly spoken of in the district in which he resides, carries his seventy-five years well, and, but for the extreme whiteness of his beard and a slight bend of his shoulders, would still be considered a man in the prime of life. Fortune has smiled upon him in the fullness of his years. Portions of his estate he has sold or rented, but he, with his son and brother, have a large tract under cultivation. His residence stands nearly three hundred yards from the banks of the Putah creek, surrounded on every side by a splendid orchard of fruit trees of every variety, including oranges, olives, figs, and grapes, one vine having tendrils of forty feet in length that form a magnificent arbor ; while the building is of fine, soft, smooth stone, found on the property in considerable quantities, which has a beautiful appearance, and combines all the comfort of an old country establishment, with the advantages of habitation, which a glorious climate affords.

Thus we have satisfactorily traced the establishment of the first American in Solano county, but emigration had not, as yet, come into California, for no sign of gold had then been found, nor, indeed, had the remarkable adaptability of the soil for agricultural as well as pastoral purposes been given to the world. Those who occupied the lands did so in peace, and continued so to do for years. It was not until 1846 that any positive influx in the population of the county made itself apparent. In this year Benicia was first settled, but ere relating this portion of Solano's history, let us draw attention to the circumstances which induced to the selection of the site by Doctor Robert Semple.



In the early part of 1846 the United States and Mexico were at war. A fine fleet of the best ships of the Union proudly bore the flag on the Pacific ocean and along its coast. Fremont, the intrepid, with a small force of regulars, were engaged on the frontier of California on a supposed scientific survey. Great Britain and France, through their representatives, were watching with keen anxiety the out-turn of affairs, being ready at a moment's notice to take advantage of any loop-hole that might present itself, and assume a protectorate over the coast, or take forcible possession of the country. The native Californians were not numerous; those were divided in council, scattered over a vast territory and poorly equipped with defensive weapons. At this juncture affairs culminated to a point, and the little town of Sonoma was called upon to play a part in the history of the west, which was finally settled by the acquisition of California to the United States.

On the morning of June 16th a band of thirty-three Americans, recruited from Sutter's Fort and the adjacent districts, marched into the town of Sonoma, captured the garrison and took General Vallejo, the officer commanding the Province of California, a prisoner. The company who carried out this high-handed action were under the orders of one of their number named Merritt, whom they had elected to the position of Captain. They proceeded entirely on their responsibility, committed no excess, but still were determined in their policy.

Being without authority to use the flag of the United States, a banner of their own was therefore resolved upon, and three men, Ben Duell, (now of Lake county) Todd, and Currie, manufactured the standard, the two former, who were saddlers it is believed, sewing the stripes of red, white, and blue together, while they with the bear, from which the color received its name, were painted by the latter. A narrator of these events *naively* remarks: "The material of which the stripes were made was not, as has been stated, an old red flannel petticoat, but was new flannel and white cotton, which Duell got from Mrs. W. B. Elliott, who had been brought to the town of Sonoma, her husband, W. B. Elliott, being one of the bear-flag party. Some blue domestic was found elsewhere and used in making the flag. The drawing was rudely done, and, when finished, the bear resembled a pig as much as the object for which it was intended." The idea of adopting the insignia of a bear was that having once entered the fight, there should be no surrender until the thorough emancipation of California was accomplished. The bear-flag is still preserved as a choice relic by the Society of California Pioneers, and on notable occasions it sees the light in a procession by the Association.

In the meantime after a few fights, and the murder of one or two of the independents, Fremont made his appearance on the scene, and fitted out an expedition to pursue the Californians which he did with much vigor, finally

driving Castro, their commander, with his forces, out of the district. While these events were being enacted, the American flag was hoisted at Monterey on July 7th, by direction of Commodore Sloat; on the following day it was opened to the breeze on the plaza at Yerba Buena, and, on July 10th, the revolutionists received one with every demonstration of joy; down came the flag of independence, the inartistic bear-flag, and up went the stars and stripes, thus completing the conquest of the district of Sonoma of which Solono county then formed a portion.

The detachment to escort General Vallejo to Sutter's Fort, wherein he was to be held as a prisoner of war, was placed under the command of Doctor Robert Semple, then a captain serving under the bear flag, who, while proceeding by boat along the shores of the Carquinez straits, casually observed to the general on the remarkable eligibility of the present site of Benicia as one on which to found a city. At the time the matter was referred to simply as a topic of conversation; on the return journey, however, after the short detention of the General, he once more brought up the subject, which terminated in his promise to make a concession for that purpose of five miles of water front and one in depth; this we find on reference to the county records was finally carried out, by deed of gift, on May 19th, 1847, the name of Thomas O. Larkin, consul for the United State at Monterey, being associated with those of General Vallejo and Doctor Robert Semple, the deed containing certain provisions which will be treated on in the history of the city of Benicia.

Thus the first town in Solono county was located and soon after settled.

We must now return to the doings of the year 1846. In this year immigration was greater than on any previous one, among those arriving being Landy Alford and Nathan Barbour. What their experiences were let us here relate. Starting from Andrews county, Missouri, for this, then almost "undiscovered country," they crossed the plains and came to the banks of the Feather river in October, 1846. The waters being in flood it was too deep to ford, they, therefore, with that wit which becomes sharpened by a stern necessity, devised the following mode of reaching the opposite bank. Taking the box, or bed of their wagons, they fastened to each corner an empty keg, thus making a raft or float; in this they conveyed, not only all their household goods, but also their entire families, the live stock which they were bringing with them being compelled to swim across. Not long after this our party found themselves at Wolfskill's ranch, already referred to, and here they divided, the Alford's going to Sonoma accompanied by Barbour's wife, while Barbour remained behind for a few days, and finally enlisted in the battalion that Fremont was at the time recruiting, with which he went to Sacramento and served five months. In the end of March, 1847, Mr. Barbour followed his friends to Sonoma where he, with Alford, framed two houses which they intended erecting on a couple of lots given



them for the purpose. On one occasion while at work shaping out their posts and beams, they were found by Thomas O. Larkin who made them an offer of a startling nature, this being no less than a proposal to take both their houses to Benicia free of charge, to give them one thousand dollars each for them, they having the privilege of living in them during the winter, only with this simple proviso, that they should be erected on certain specified lots in that city. The offer was accepted and they moved to Benicia in October, 1847. With the same train in which started for California those mentioned above, traveled Daniel M. Berry, who with his family arrived in September, 1846, and at once proceeded to Rio Vista, but in the following spring removed from there and came into the Suisun valley and pitched a tent on what is now the farm of Joseph Blake, situated about six miles west of Fairfield. In this year there also located in Vaca valley, Albert Lyon, John Patton, J. P. Long, Willis Long, and Clay Long, who commenced the business of stock-raisers. At this time there also lived in the adobe at Rockville, formerly occupied by Solano, the proselytized chief of the Suisuns, one Jesus Molino, an Indian who farmed some land.

Captain Von Pfister, a most worthy gentleman of Benicia, who arrived in that city in the month of August, 1847, possesses a set of books, a day-book and journal, used in his business, which impart a fund of information in regard to the early settlement of the county, and in a measure serves as a directory for that year. When the captain landed in Benicia, one William McDonald was then building an adobe, which Von Pfister rented on completion, and opened the first store in the county. From this establishment, the neighborhood for many miles around was supplied, including residents in Contra Costa, notably the Spanish family of Martinez, who founded the pleasant town of that name on the opposite shore of the Carquinez Straits. The books above referred to inform us that there then lived in the county the following gentlemen—of course there were others whom it has been impossible to trace—all of whom did business at this pioneer emporium. Robert Semple, Edward Higgings, Charles Hand, Benjamin Furbush, David A. Davis, William Bryan, George Stevens, James Thompson, Stephen Cooper, F. S. Holland, Landy Alford, Benjamin McDonald, William Russell, William Watson, William I. Tustin, Henry Mathews, while Ward & Smith, and Robert A. Parker, then the principal merchants of Yerba Buena, were the wholesale establishments with which Von Pfister did business.

The foregoing names are produced merely to give a sort of general idea of who some of the original settlers were, but it must be by no manner of means inferred that they were the first to locate in that section. It is fair to assume that Doctor Robert Semple was the first to appear with any defined ideas of taking up a permanent residence on the spot, for to him and two others did the land belong; there were no houses wherein to live; so those who came were per force content to dwell in their wagons and

tents. Yet this was for no lengthened period, as in 1847 we find on record that houses were constructed by William I. Tustin, now of San Francisco, Robert Semple, William Bryan, William Russell, Thomas O. Larkin, Stephen Cooper, Nathan Barbour, Landy Alford, and a man named Benedict.

In this year, too, Samuel Green McMahon arrived in the northern part of the county and located on certain lands in the Wolfskill grant, on Putah creek, while in the previous year Don Juan Bidwell, an American, who had adopted a Spanish synonym of his name, and had served against the Bear-flag party with the Spaniards, received a grant of land in what is now Rio Vista township. About this time William McDonald, of Benicia, purchased a farm in the Sulphur Spring valley, on what was for many years after known as the Wood's ranch, and there broke the first ground in the southern portion of the county, and produced crops, principally of vegetables, which were a marvel to those early residents who had come from the Eastern agricultural States.

In the fall of the year 1847, Captain Von Pfister, traveling overland, visited the site of the present State Capital. His journey was made through that portion of the district now known as Solano County, he having started from Benicia and forded the Rio de los Potos, somewhere between Wolfskill's house and that portion of the marsh where the creek loses itself in the tules, presumably at the point where the old Spanish trail crossed that stream. There were then only five houses between these two points, at four of which the captain visited. The first was that of the Indian, Jesus Molino, at Rockville; here he found about one hundred acres of ground under cultivation, producing beans, peas, wheat, barley, and other cereal and bulbous plants with which the producer was wont to purchase his necessary stores; his farming implements were of the most primitive kind, the plough used being the crooked limb or elbow of a tree, armed with a pointed, rough, iron socket, which was unevenly dragged through the soil. He next visited the Berry ranch, in Suisun valley, and here found a clap-board house, the only one in the district of the kind; and hence he proceeded in turn to the ranches of Armijo and Vaca and Peña, and made his exit from the county as already described.

This year of 1847 may be said to close the pre-historic days of the State, for it was not until the following year that California became a household word and had her name tremblingly and hopefully pronounced by eager lips. As things were then, matters progressed smoothly, but it was little calculated what was in store for the county in the future; what there was we shall attempt to define as we go on.

The year 1848 is one wherein reached the nearest attainment of the discovery of the Philosopher's stone, which it has been the lot of Christendom to witness: on January 19th gold was discovered, at Coloma, on the American river, and the most unbelieving and cold-blooded were, by the



*S. G. Hilborn*





middle of spring, irretrievably bound in its fascinating meshes. The wonder is that the discovery was not made earlier. Emigrants, settlers, hunters, practical miners, scientific exploring parties, had camped on, settled in, hunted through, dug in and ransacked the region, yet never found it; the discovery was entirely accidental. Franklin Tuthill, in his History of California, tells the story in these words: Captain Sutter had contracted with James W. Marshall, in September, 1847, for the construction of a saw-mill, in Coloma. In the course of the winter a dam and race were made, but when the water was let on, the tail-race was too narrow. To widen and deepen it, Marshall let a strong current of water directly into the race, which bore a large body of mud and gravel to the foot.

On the 19th of January, 1848, Marshall observed some glittering particles in the race, which he was curious enough to examine. He called five carpenters on the mill to see them; but though they talked over the possibility of its being gold, the vision did not inflame them. Peter L. Weimar claims that he was with Marshall when the first piece of the "yellow stuff" was picked up. It was a pebble, weighing six pennyweights and eleven grains. Marshall gave it to Mrs. Weimar, and asked her to boil it in saleratus water and see what came of it. As she was making soap at the time, she pitched it into the soap kettle. About twenty-four hours afterwards it was fished out and found all the brighter for its boiling.

Marshall, two or three weeks later, took the specimens below, and gave them to Sutter, to have them tested. Before Sutter had quite satisfied himself as to their nature, he went up to the mill, and, with Marshall, made a treaty with the Indians, buying of them their titles to the region round about, for a certain amount of goods. There was an effort made to keep the secret inside the little circle that knew it, but it soon leaked out. They had many misgivings and much discussion whether they were not making themselves ridiculous; yet by common consent all began to hunt, though with no great spirit, for the "yellow stuff" that might prove such a prize.

In February, one of the party went to Yerba Buena, taking some of the dust with him. Fortunately he stumbled upon Isaac Humphrey, an old Georgian gold-miner, who, at the first look at the specimens, said they were gold, and that the diggings must be rich. Humphrey tried to induce some of his friends to go up with him to the mill, but they thought it a crazy expedition, and left him to go alone. He reached there on the 7th of March. A few were hunting for gold, but rather lazily, and the work on the mill went on as usual. Next day he began "prospecting," and soon satisfied himself that he had struck a rich placer. He made a rocker, and then commenced work in earnest.

A few days later, a Frenchman, Baptiste, formerly a miner in Mexico, left the lumber he was sawing for Sutter at Weber's, ten miles east of Coloma, and came to the mill. He agreed with Humphrey that the region

was rich, and, like him, took to the pan and the rocker. These two men were the competent practical teachers of the crowd that flocked in to see how they did it. The lesson was easy, the process simple. An hour's observation fitted the least experienced for working to advantage.

Slowly and surely, however, did these discoveries creep into the minds of those at home and abroad; the whole civilized world was set agog with the startling news from the shores of the Pacific. Young and old were seized with the California fever; high and low, rich and poor, were infected by it; the prospect was altogether too gorgeous to contemplate. Why they could actually pick up a fortune for the seeking it! Positive affluence was within the grasp of the weakest; the very coast was shining with the bright metal which could be obtained by picking it out with a knife.

Says Tuthill: Before such considerations as these, the conservatism of the most stable bent. Men of small means, whose tastes inclined them to keep out of all hazardous schemes and uncertain enterprises, thought they saw duty beckoning them around the Horn, or across the plains. In many a family circle, where nothing but the strictest economy could make the two ends of the year meet, there were long and anxious consultations, which resulted in selling off a piece of the homestead or the woodland, or the choicest of the stock, to fit out one sturdy representative to make a fortune for the family. Hundreds of farms were mortgaged to buy tickets for the land of gold. Some insured their lives and pledged their policies for an outfit. The wild boy was packed off hopefully. The black sheep of the flock was dismissed with a blessing, and the forlorn hope that, with a change of skies, there might be a change of manners. The stay of the happy household said "Good-bye, but only for a year or two," to his charge. Unhappy husbands availed themselves cheerfully of this cheap and reputable method of divorce, trusting Time to mend or mar matters in their absence. Here was a chance to begin life anew. Whoever had begun it badly, or made slow headway on the right course, might start again in a region where Fortune had not learned to coquette with and dupe her wooers.

The adventurers generally formed companies, expecting to go overland or by sea to the mines, and to dissolve partnership only after a first trial of luck together in the "diggings." In the Eastern and Middle States they would buy up an old whaling-ship, just ready to be condemned to the wreckers, put in a cargo of such stuff as they must need themselves, and provisions, tools, or goods, that must be sure to bring returns enough to make the venture profitable. Of course, the whole fleet rushing together through the Golden Gate, made most of these ventures profitless, even when the guess was happy as to the kind of supplies needed by the Californians. It can hardly be believed what sieves of ships started, and how many of them actually made the voyage. Little river-steamers, that had scarcely tasted salt water

before, were fitted out to thread the Straits of Magellan, and these were welcomed to the bays and rivers of California, whose waters some of them ploughed and vexed busily for years afterwards.

Then steamers, as well as all manner of sailing vessels, began to be advertised to run to the Isthmus; and they generally went crowded to excess with passengers, some of whom were fortunate enough, after the toilsome ascent of the Chagres river, and the descent either on mules or on foot to Panama, not to be detained more than a month waiting for the craft that had rounded the Horn, and by which they were ticketed to proceed to San Francisco. But hundreds broke down under the horrors of the voyage in the steerage, contracted on the Isthmus the low typhoid fevers incident to tropical marshy regions, and died.

The overland emigrants, unless they came too late in the season to the Sierras, seldom suffered as much, as they had no great variation of climate on their route. They had this advantage, too, that the mines lay at the end of their long road; while the sea-faring, when they landed, had still a weary journey before them. Few tarried longer at San Francisco than was necessary to learn how utterly useless were the curious patent mining contrivances they had brought, and to replace them with the pick, shovel pan, and cradle. If anyone found himself destitute of funds to go farther, there was work enough to raise them by. Labor was honorable; and the daintiest dandy, if he were honest, could not resist the temptation to work where wages were so high, pay so prompt, and employers so flush.

There were not lacking in San Francisco, grunblers who had tried the mines and satisfied themselves that it cost a dollar's worth of sweat and time, and living exclusively on bacon, beans, and "slap-jacks," to pick a dollar's worth of gold out of rock, or river bed, or dry ground; but they confessed that the good luck which they never enjoyed abode with others. Then the display of dust, slugs, and bars of gold in the public gambling places; the sight of men arriving every day freighted with belts full, which they parted with so freely as men only can when they have got it easily; the testimony of the miniature rocks; the solid nuggets brought down from above every few days, whose size and value rumor multiplied according to the number of her tongues. The talk, day and night, unceasingly and exclusively of "gold, easy to get and hard to hold," inflamed all new comers with the desire to hurry on and share the chances. They chafed at the necessary detentions. They nervously feared that all would be gone before they should arrive.

The prevalent impression was that the placers would give out in a year or two. Then it behoved him who expected to gain much to be among the earliest on the ground. When experiment was so fresh in the field, one theory was about as good as another. An hypothesis that lured men perpetually farther up the gorges of the foot-hills, and to explore the cañons



of the mountains, was this: that the gold which had been found in the beds of rivers, or in gulches, through which streams once ran, must have been washed down from the places of original deposits farther up the mountains. The higher up the gold-hunter went, then, the nearer he approached the source of supply.

To reach the mines from San Francisco, the course lay up San Pablo and Suisun bays, and the Sacramento—not then, as now, a yellow, muddy stream, but a river pellucid and deep—to the landing for Sutter's Fort; and they who made the voyage in sailing vessels, thought Mount Diablo significantly named so long it kept them company and swung its shadow over their path. From Sutter's the most common route was across the broad, fertile valley to the foot-hills, and up the American or some one of its tributaries; or, ascending the Sacramento to the Feather and the Yuba, the company staked off a claim, pitched its tent or constructed a cabin, and set up its rocker, or began to oust the river from a portion of its bed. Good luck might hold the impatient adventurers for a whole season on one bar; bad luck scattered them always farther up.

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Hoads sought the mining camps, which did not stop to study roads. Traders came in to supply the camps, and, not very fast, but still to some extent, mechanics and farmers to supply both traders and miners. So, as if by magic, within a year or two after the rush began, the map of the country was written thick with the names of settlements.

Some of these were the nuclei of towns that now flourish and promise to continue as long as the State is peopled. Others, in districts where the placers were soon exhausted, were deserted almost as hastily as they were begun, and now no traces remain of them except the short chimney-stack, the broken surface of the ground, heaps of cobble-stones, rotting, half-buried sluice boxes, empty whisky bottles, scattered playing cards, and rusty cans.

The "fall of '49 and spring of '50" is the era of California history, which the pioneer always speaks of with warmth. It was the free-and-easy age when everybody was flush, and fortune, if not in the palm, was only just beyond the grasp of all. Men lived chiefly in tents, or in cabins scarcely more durable, and behaved themselves like a generation of bachelors. The family was beyond the mountains; the restraints of society had not yet arrived. Men threw off the masks they had lived behind and appeared out in their true character. A few did not discharge the consciences and convictions they had brought with them. More rollicked in a perfect freedom from those bonds which good men cheerfully assume in settled society for the good of the greater number. Some afterwards resumed their temperate and steady habits, but hosts were wrecked before the period of their license expired.



Very rarely did men, on their arrival in the country, begin to work at their old trade or profession. To the mines first. If fortune favored they soon quit for more congenial employments. If she frowned, they might depart disgusted, if they were able; but oftener, from sheer inability to leave the business, they kept on, drifting from bar to bar, living fast, reckless, improvident, half-civilized lives; comparatively rich to-day, poor to-morrow; tormented with rheumatisms and agues; remembering dimly the joys of the old homestead; nearly weaned from the friends at home, who, because they were never heard from, soon became like dead men in their memory; seeing little of women and nothing of churches; self-reliant, yet satisfied that there was nowhere any "show" for them; full of enterprise in the direct line of their business, and utterly lost in the threshold of any other; genial companions, morbidly craving after newspapers; good fellows, but short-lived.

Such was the maelstrom which dragged all into its vortex thirty years ago! Now, almost the entire generation of pioneer miners, who remained in that business, has passed away, and the survivors feel like men who are lost and old before their time, among the new comers, who many be just as old, but lack their long, strange chapter of adventures.

No history of a county in California would be complete without a record of the rush to this coast at the time of what is so aptly named the "gold fever;" hence use has been made of the graphic pen-picture quoted above.

Where there were so many homeless, houseless wanderers, the marvel is not so much that thousands should have succumbed to sickness, as that there was no epidemic to sweep off the entire reckless population.

In the winter of 1849-'50 large numbers of miners repaired to Benicia, and there pitching their tents, plunged into the most head-long dissipation. Saloons and gambling hells were in full blast, large sums of money being spent on and in these canvass palaces, ornamented and embellished with the wildest display of meretricious splendor. In the spring of the year, when the weather opened, the majority returned to their will-o'-the-wisp pursuit after wealth in the mines, while those who remained, heart-sick at hope deferred, cast aside their rockers and picks, and betook themselves to the ploughshare, so to try their luck at fortune-making by the production of golden grain, as against the acquiring it from golden sand. In these years commenced the arrival, in numbers, of settlers in Solano county, a goodly share of her oldest and most worthy residents having each had, at one time or another, a long or a short spell at the mines, and truly do they love to narrate their experiences in these eventful years, which is usually done with a simplicity at once "child-like and bland."

But to return to the settlement of Solano county: In 1848, John Stilts, who had two years previously visited the district, returned and settled in Green Valley, where he was shortly after followed by W. P. Durbin and

Charles Ramsey. In the following spring came Landy Alford from Benicia to the Suisun Valley, and located on the farm now owned by Lewis Pierce. Alford was of that class of whom the most stolid citizens are made. He was a man brought up on the frontier, and, as usual with such characters, lacked those more refined qualities which education and contact with society brings. A man who was passionately fond of hunting, and when not engaged in the pursuit of deer, bear, or other wild animals, or recounting his exploits to interested listeners, was silent, reserved, and almost moody. After his coming to this township, and when civilization became more advanced and game became sparse, he pushed on to the valley of the San Joaquin, where he died a few years ago. He, with many of the early settlers, have been gathered to their fathers on the brighter shores of the Great Beyond. A few are left awaiting the summons to join those who have gone before, but who shared with them the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life in this part of the Pacific slope, erst the home of Solano and his tribe of Suisuns.

In this year, too, there established themselves in Vaca valley, J. H., W. B., and Garard Long, who were soon after followed by Marshall M. Basye; General J. B. Frisbie, too, at this time arrived in Benicia: while there were others, who it has been impossible to trace, arriving almost daily. Most of these have been gathered to their fathers; while some have left the county to reside in other parts of the State. In the fall of 1850, John R. Wolfskill was joined by his brother Mathias, on his grant on Putah creek; the same season Nathan Barbour transferred his residence to Suisun valley; while in that year, among the arrivals in the county, were J. H. Bauman, W. A. Dunn, and his family (among whom was Alexander, the present County Clerk of Solano), who located in Fairfield in December, but afterwards moved permanently to Vaca valley; Dr. Frisbie, and Paul K. Hubbs and his family, in Benicia; S. W. Long, in Vacaville; and Harvey Rice, of Suisun.

In 1850, Benicia had assumed considerable proportions as a city; while, through the auspices of General Vallejo, another town, within seven miles of it, was commencing to spring into existence. This is now the city of Vallejo, which was to have been called Eureka, and at one time actually bore the name of Eden. It is known to all how this county became the possessor of the legislature — it fluctuating between Vallejo and Benicia, until it was gobbled up by Sacramento — the full history of these doings appear in another portion of the work; and also to this period belongs the credit of seeing the erection of the first two-storied frame building in the county. This was built by Daniel M. Berry, in the summer of 1850, and is now occupied by his son, Elijah Berry; it being located on the farm of

Joseph Blake. The following years still saw the population on the increase ; in 1851, came E. F. Gillespie, to the upper end of Suisun valley, where he commenced farming and haying ; Robert and Thomas Brownlie, with their families, to Vallejo ; James G. Edwards, to Suisun, locating on the farm now owned by John McMullen ; Charles Ramsey, to Green valley ; about this time there settled, also, Captain Wing. In the following year, among those who cast their lot in the county, were W. G. Davisson, George A. Gillespie, the present Deputy County Clerk, a most worthy gentleman, and a complete encyclopædia of information in the various affairs of the country since the date of his location in it ; J. B. Lemon, the present County Treasurer, in Green valley ; Christley Manka, in Suisun township ; Elijah S. Silvey, in Silveyville, from whom that village and township takes its name ; and Dr. O. C. Udell, on Putah creek. At this epoch of the county's history, there was only one blacksmith shop ; it was situated at the foot of Suisun valley, and kept by J. M. Perry ; to this establishment had the farmers from miles around to come to get their ploughs repaired, their harrows mended, and horses shod, consuming, in many instances, two entire days. In 1852, the first store was opened in the Suisun valley, by J. W. Seaver, on the ground now occupied by Sam. Martin, which lessened the distance to procure the necessary commodities for existence. The country had now become well populated ; the wild oats of earlier years showing a commencement of vanishing before the enterprise of the new-comers ; they for the while contented themselves with but scant covering from the rude winds ; a log cabin, of proscribed dimensions and primitive build, was all that the greater number could afford. True, John R. Wolfskill had already built a fine frame dwelling on the banks of Putah creek, the timber for which he had procured from Benicia, a distance of forty miles, which cost him a " bit " a foot, and for transporting which, he providing horses and wagons, he paid a driver sixteen dollars a day. The later arrivals were not thus blessed ; their mode of getting along was different. A few acres would, at the outset, be enclosed by a ditch and mound, with brushwood heaped on top, to protect the rising crops from the depredations of the wild oxen and other animals ; timber was not to be procured save under disadvantageous circumstances of fatigue and risk ; while a still greater enemy was ever to be feared in the firing of the uncut portions of the wild oats, which, when ignited, burned with fearful rapidity. Civilization had, however, made its impress upon the land. Hay was made ; grain was grown ; and though the markets were at a long distance from the producer, even at this early date small crafts found their way to the Suisun embarcadero, and transported the freight, to what was then, the thriving city of San Francisco.

We quote from the abstract of the census of 1852, of the State of California, the following return, having reference to Solano county :

Population . . . . .	2,835
Whites, male . . . . .	2,324
Whites, female . . . . .	402
Citizens, United States, over 21 years of age . . . . .	1,298
Negroes, male . . . . .	26
Negroes, female . . . . .	2
Mulattoes, male . . . . .	35
Mulattoes, female . . . . .	None.
Indians, male . . . . .	31
Indians, female . . . . .	15
Foreign residents, male . . . . .	790
Foreign residents, female . . . . .	101

The quantity of land under cultivation in 1852, was five thousand nine hundred and forty-nine acres, which was situated chiefly in the Suscol, Sulphur Spring, Green, Suisun, Ulattis, Vaca, and Putah valleys.

The number of horses, cattle, and live stock generally, is appended :

Horses . . . . .	1,957
Mules . . . . .	187
Milch Cows . . . . .	2,185
Beef Cattle . . . . .	1,085
Hogs . . . . .	2,264
Sheep . . . . .	2,000
Oxen . . . . .	1,149

The quantity of produce raised in the county was :

Bushels of Barley . . . . .	105,630
Bushels of Oats . . . . .	13,870
Bushels of Corn . . . . .	3,555
Bushels of Wheat . . . . .	8,395
Bushels of Rye . . . . .	100
Bushels of Potatoes . . . . .	25,905
Tons of Hay . . . . .	2,146
Number of Grape Vines . . . . .	5,811
Number of Fruit Trees . . . . .	1,961

Thus is seen what gigantic strides had been made towards the establishment of Solano county as a centre of agricultural production, and with what just pride may we now refer to those of our relations and friends who are still alive, who did so much towards bringing the valleys, and now some of the mountains, within the influence of the plough. It is not within the



province of this work to follow individual by individual in his location in the county; it has been a sufficiently intricate task to particularize those few whom we have enumerated; how much more difficult, therefore, would it be, were it possible, even to account for the two thousand and more who were already settled in the county in the year 1852. As year followed year, the cry of immigration was "still they come;" as month succeeded month the wants of the communities were supplied. Churches were built, schools established; peace, order and good government were maintained as effectively as could be; while the judicial system had been put into practical operation.

The first hotel opened in the county was naturally at Benicia, the then metropolis of Solano. It was carried on in an adobe house, by Major Stephen Cooper, and named the "California House." The Major kept it but for a short time, when it passed into the hands of Captain E. H. Von Pfister, at a rental of five hundred dollars a month. The first church was one for the Presbyterian order, constructed by the residents in 1849, the frame having been imported from one of the Eastern States, and occupied by Doctor Sylvester Woodbridge, now of San Francisco. The first school was opened in 1849. The first birth was that of a daughter to the wife of Nathan Barbour; the first marriage occurred on December 16, 1847, being that of Doctor Robert Semple to Miss Fannie Cooper, daughter of the Judge of the Court of First Instance, Major Stephen Cooper, at which there was considerable merriment; and the first record of a death, is that of John Semple, a young man of twenty-one years of age, and son of the Doctor by a former marriage.

In December, 1851, the plat of the town of Vacaville was filed, the original grantors of the land being sponsors for the same; while in every portion of the county immigrants arrived, and locations taken up on all sides. Such, indeed, was the influx of settlers into these valleys, the fertility of which had already been noised abroad, that we find, in the year 1853, the establishment of a post-office at Cordelia, a small village, which now only exists in name. In this year, Doctor S. K. Nurse established himself at a spot, which he named Nurse's Landing, now known as Denverton, where he built a residence, and in 1854, continued his enterprise by building a wharf of considerable size, and a store as well.

Let us now consider what the prospects of the county were in 1855, as we gather from statistics. In that year the amount of land within the county, was 535,000 acres, of which there were under cultivation, 18,500 acres, divided as follows:

Mowed for Hay.....	4,000 acres—yield.....	6,000 Tons.
Planted in Wheat....	7,500 acres—yield.....	150,000 Bushels.
Planted in Barley....	5,200 acres—yield.....	156,000 Bushels.
Planted in Oats.....	700 acres—yield.....	28,000 Bushels.

Planted in Corn . . . . .	700 acres—yield . . . . .	21,000 Bushels.
Planted in Potatoes . .	200 acres—yield . . . . .	30,000 Bushels.
Planted in Onions . . .	50 acres—yield . . . . .	50 Tons.
Planted in Broom-corn	135 acres—yield . . . . .	.....
Planted in other crop.	26 acres—yield . . . . .	.....

The estimated stock of animals was :

Horses . . . . .	3,000.
Cattle . . . . .	24,000.
Mules . . . . .	300.
Sheep . . . . .	18,000.
Goats . . . . .	200.
Hogs . . . . .	17,000.

While the value of animals slaughtered was approximately stated to be \$100,000, an emphatic proof of the increase of population. This, however, did not rest here, railways were mooted, steamboats already plied to Suisun, which daily left loaded to the water's edge with produce for the San Francisco market. Early every morning strings of wagons, sometimes of forty or fifty in number, arrived with large loads of grain and vegetables, which were borne down the muddy slough and through the vast bleak expanse of tule to the centre of traffic. Suisun was then the outlet for all the surrounding country; the county, through the energies of successive governments, had been intersected in every direction by good roads, making travel easy and pleasant; the fertile valleys were becoming more thickly peopled as day succeeded day; a ready market was found for produce, and all went "merry as a marriage bell." The attention of the reader is called to the following report of the County Assessor in 1862 as an example of what remarkable progress was made in the first ten years of the agricultural history of Solano.

Description.	No. Acres.
Valley Land adapted to tillage . . . . .	292,000.
Mountain and Hill Land suitable for grazing purposes . .	118,440.
Swamp and Overflowed Lands, lying principally on the eastern and southern side of the county, about . . . . .	92,000.
The Bays and Estuaries within the borders of the county cover the surface of . . . . .	43,000.
Total . . . . .	545,440.

#### AGRICULTURAL LAND.

Of the two hundred and ninety-two thousand acres of tillable land, there is not probably upon the face of the globe, so large an amount of

farming land, lying in a compact form, that presents more alluring inducements to the husbandman than this. Experiments have proven it to be susceptible of the highest state of cultivation, yielding abundant harvests of the grains and fruits indigenous to every zone. Wheat, barley, oats, rye, corn, buckwheat, peas, beans, potatoes, yams, onions, etc., flourish luxuriantly while the growing of flax, hemp, tobacco, cotton, rice, broomcorn, and Chinese sugarcane, has been pronounced a success. Here also grow beautifully, the apple, peach, pear, plum, cherry, nectarine, quince, apricot, fig, orange, olive, pomegranite, pineapple, almond and prune trees; and gooseberry, raspberry, strawberry, and grape vines, are yearly laden with fruit.

We have according to statistics :

Description.	No. Acres.
Land enclosed.....	115,774.
Cultivated.....	44,454.
In Wheat.....	14,256.
Barley.....	15,687.
Oats.....	580.
Rye.....	320.
Corn.....	970.
Buckwheat.....	36.
Peas.....	120.
Potatoes.....	1,473.
Onions.....	462.
Hay.....	42,160.
Alfalfa.....	23.
Broom Corn.....	170.

Of fruit trees and vines, we have :

Description.	Number.
Apple trees, acres.....	15,996.
Peach trees.....	32,381.
Plum trees.....	1,592.
Pear trees.....	3,573.
Cherry trees.....	1,486.
Apricot trees.....	2,144.
Fig trees.....	1,772.
Grape vines.....	520,630.
Wine, manufactured, gallons.....	10,580.
Brandy, manufactured, gallons.....	460.

It will thus be seen that the inhabitants of Solano are not unmindful of the comforts that surround civilization, and make happy homes; and as the great drawback on California, the land titles, are becoming adjudicated, new evidence of thriftiness and industry are being added to those already inaugurated.

## GRAZING LAND.

This portion of the county (one hundred and eighteen thousand four hundred and forty acres) consists of the mountain spurs of the Coast Range, and lie on the eastern side of the dividing ridge between this county and Napa, and the low hills that are adjacent to, and form a portion of the shores of the Suisun bay. The surface is covered with a dense growth of "bunch grass" and wild oats, the former growing upon the summits and the north sides of the highest peaks, being green nearly the whole year, and a grass of hardy growth, flourishing best upon the most sterile hills. It is valuable to the farmer, being very nutritious for stock.

Of the wild oats it would seem almost superfluous to speak, being indigenous to the soil, and familiar to nearly every inhabitant of California. But, lest there were some who have not visited this portion of the State when its growth is most abundant, I will endeavor to describe it: The seed bears a strong resemblance to the tame black oats, with this difference: it is smaller, and has a hirsute appendage that grows upon the base of the grain and nearly envelops it. This seemingly useless appendage has its uses. In the fall, the soil, after many months of uninterrupted sunshine, is hard and impenetrable, and would be impossible to seed were it not for the cracks that are produced by contraction. The oats ripen in the months of July and August, and are shattered by the action of the wind.

Falling upon the hard and impervious earth, they could not take root if they did not make their way to these cracks, which they do in two ways:

*First.*—The heavy fibres that surround it act as legs, and prevent the grain from lying close to the earth, at the same time being a sort of sail that catches the lightest breeze that blows, thus turning it over and over until it is safely lodged in the nearest crack, to await the coming rains of winter.

*Second.*—The action of water upon these fibres has a singular and novel effect. The first rains falling upon the seed, produce a desire for locomotion, or a crawling propensity, and, by a curious process, the grain will move itself several inches, thereby falling into cracks that are yawning to receive and nourish it. Early in the winter, the oats, sprouting from these cracks, give the earth the appearance of being spread with a beautiful network.

This grass is the stand-by of the farmer. It nourishes his stock in the spring, fattens them in summer and fall, and sustains them in winter. From it he makes his hay, which is pronounced by good judges to be the best that is used.

## SWAMP AND OVERFLOWED LAND.

As before remarked, our estimate of the quantity of this land laying in this county is about ninety-two thousand acres. A few years since, this



portion of our State was deemed valueless; but more enlightened and recent experiments are awakening the public mind to the fact that it will be quite an important element in enhancing our future wealth. The manner of its disposal, as marked out by the Legislature of 1858, in a law enacted during that session, was a wise termination of this previously mooted question. Since the passage of that law, these lands are being rapidly taken up, and are yielding an increasing revenue to the State. Moreover, there is no one now who doubts the fact that these lands are a more speedy way to reclamation by private energy and enterprise than they would have been had they been jobbed out in large quantities to corporate associations and irresponsible parties. The more elevated portions of these lands in our county are being tilled to good advantage, and the day is certainly not far distant when this now neglected soil will be made to furnish support and sustenance to thousands of immigrants arriving upon our shores.

#### MINERAL LAND.

This county has long since been denominated a "cow county;" therefore little will be expected under this head. Gold has been found, however, within our borders. There are about seven thousand acres of mountain and hill laying on the north of Township No. 7 N. R. 2 W., and on the south side of Township 8 N. R. 2 W., in the vicinity of Putah creek, from which gold dust has been taken to the amount of fifteen hundred dollars, in the past year.

Stone has been found in several localities suitable for building purposes. Still, our quarries are inferior to those of Folsom. Our marble quarries have gained considerable celebrity, furnishing a peculiar kind of striped, variegated marble, that admits of the highest polish, and is elegantly adapted for ornamental uses. These quarries are located upon the summits of the hills that surround Suisun valley.

#### TIMBER.

The timber of Solano comprises several species of oak, pitch-pine, ash, cotton-wood, etc., growing upon the mountains, in some of the valleys, and on the margin of streams. It is worthless for any mechanical use, and serviceable only for fuel. It is the opinion of many, that as soon as the land is all fenced, and the annual fires prevented from ravaging the country, timber can be grown here as successfully as upon the prairies of Illinois or elsewhere.

#### LIVE STOCK.

We come now to a branch of industrial pursuit that, next to our agricultural interests, surpasses all others in point of importance. The rearing of stock of every species has occupied the attention of our citizens for years;

and upon no other avocation has the same amount of money been expended as upon this. Stallions, bulls, jacks, and rams of the choicest breeds, have been imported from Europe and the older States. If the same interest that is now taken in regard to the improvement of our breeds of stock, remain unabated, with the healthful climate we possess, the time is not far distant when we will proudly take rank with the stock-raising localities of the East. According to our statistics, we have as follows :

Description.	Number.
Horses, American.....	1,343
Horses, Spanish.....	2,667
Mules.....	269
Cattle, American.....	25,652
Cattle, Spanish.....	3,634
Oxen (Yoke).....	169
Sheep.....	132,000
Hogs.....	11,737
Chickens.....	12,960
Turkeys.....	2,452
Ducks.....	560
Geese.....	128
Wool, American, pounds.....	154,000
Wool, Spanish, pounds.....	220,000

#### IMPROVEMENTS.

Our buildings are beginning to assume an appearance of stability. Red-wood shanties are being supplanted by comfortable frame and brick dwellings ; substantial plank fences are taking the place of the miserable ditches so long used ; and barns and stables are becoming indispensable to every farmer.

Of our public improvements we have : *First*—The United States Navy Yard, at Mare Island. This island lies near the southern shore of the county, opposite the town of Vallejo. It was formerly the property of General Vallejo, and was purchased by Government of Wm. H. Aspinwall, for the sum of eighty thousand dollars. The immense sum of four millions five hundred thousand dollars has been expended in building docks capable of raising vessels of the largest class, and the following named buildings, which are constructed in the most durable manner, of brick and stone : four naval store-houses, sixty-five by four hundred feet each ; blacksmith shop, two hundred by two hundred and fifty feet ; foundry, five hundred by nine hundred feet—said to be the largest building of the kind in the United States ; thirteen elegant residences for officers ; a magazine, sixty-five by one hundred feet, and a sea-wall or bulkhead four hundred feet long.

**THE PACIFIC MAIL COMPANY.**—This company has, at Benicia, two build-

ings of large dimensions, used as a foundry and machine shop. Here they repair and coal their steamers, besides doing an immense amount of work for other parties.

MARYSVILLE AND SAN FRANCISCO RAILROAD.—Of this road, forty-eight miles are located in Solano county. Twenty-two miles—from Putah creek to Suisun—are graded at a cost of about one thousand dollars per mile. Our county owns stock in this road to the amount of two hundred thousand dollars.

COURT HOUSE AND JAIL.—Our county has recently completed a new Court House and Jail, at a cost of thirty-five thousand dollars. The amount was raised by special assessment.

GRIST MILLS.—We have two grist mills—one built of stone, and not yet finished; is to have four run of stone, and to cost fifteen thousand dollars. The other is built of brick, at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars. It has three run of stone, and is propelled by a forty-horse-power engine; has ground two thousand five hundred and twelve tons of grain during the past year, and is capable of making seven hundred and eighty barrels of flour per week.

## ASSESSMENTS.

Assessed value of real estate 1860 . . . . .	\$1,217,472.48
Assessed value of improvements . . . . .	704,516.00
Assessed value of personal property . . . . .	1,960,712.50
	<hr/>
Total . . . . .	\$3,882,700.98

It can be gathered from the foregoing report how much the prosperity of Solano county had increased. With the establishment of the Navy Yard on Mare Island, a full account of which will be found elsewhere, a new line of labor was imported, whereby the skilled mechanic was introduced to this portion of the State, who brought a variety of excellent qualities which have made many of them citizens worthy of the best confidence of their fellow residents. Among these may be named Messrs. A. Powell, John Wentworth, Honorable C. B. Denio, and others, who have taken prominent positions in the supervisorial chair, county offices, and the political rostrum.

In later years the Pacific Mail Company have almost entirely withdrawn their interests from Benicia; these works, therefore, have fallen into disuse.

Let us now present the statistical report for the year 1876 furnished to the Surveyor-General by the Assessor for Solano county, which shows a most flourishing condition of affairs when taken in contradistinction with those which we have already alluded to:

Description.	Number.	Number.
Land inclosed—acres.....		9,652
Land cultivated—acres.....		109,394
Wheat—bushels and acres.....	1,965,175	93,575
Barley—bushels and acres.....	553,665	15,819
Oats—bushels and acres.....	4,700	145
Corn—bushels and acres.....	5,980	237
Beans—bushels and acres.....	400	25
Potatoes—tons and acres.....	60	20
Sweet potatoes—tons and acres.....	23	11
Hay—tons and acres.....	19,515	13,502
Butter—pounds.....		118,800
Wool—pounds.....		427,240
Value of fruit crop—dollars.....		112,000
Bearing orange trees.....		264
Grape vines—acres.....		1,387
Wine—gallons.....		149,710
Brandy—gallons.....		2,200
Breweries.....		3
Beer—gallons.....		180,000
Horses.....		5,476
Mules.....		622
Horned cattle.....		12,790
Sheep.....		71,146
Cashmere and Angora goats.....		35
Hogs.....		8,322
Grist mills (steam power).....		3
Flour made—barrels.....		312,000
Corn ground—bushels.....		1,000
Miles of railroad.....		56

## ASSESSSED VALUE OF PROPERTY FOR 1876.

Description.	Value.
Real estate.....	\$6,350,519
Improvements.....	1,560,895
Personal property.....	1,327,248
Total valuation.....	\$9,238,662
Estimated total population.....	20,750





*Dutton*



Among the many improvements that have been worked in the county, more especially those of a public nature, which attract the largest share of attention, is the

#### GOOD TEMPLARS' HOME FOR ORPHANS.

This beautiful structure is situated on an eminence commanding a fine view of the city of Vallejo, Mare Island Navy Yard, Vallejo and Napa bays, the Straits of Carquinez, and the varied and beautiful mountain scenery adjacent thereto, including Mounts Diablo and Tamalpais. It is a frame building 110x71 feet, three stories high, with a Mansard roof, and will accommodate about three hundred inmates. The rooms in each story are lofty and well ventilated, the general plan being well adapted for the purposes for which it was designed; while the interior and exterior architectural design and finish are highly beautiful.

This noble work is the property of the Good Templars of California and Nevada, and will ever stand as a monument of their enterprise, disinterested benevolence, and charity. Its doors are open to ALL ORPHANS under fourteen years of age, without distinction. The origin of this orphanage is ascribed to Mrs. Elvira Baldwin, of Sacramento.

In December, 1867, W. H. Mills, then the Grand Worthy Secretary of the Order of Good Templars, being inspired with the idea suggested, visited George W. Simonton at Vallejo, and they formed the plan, and were the originators of the Orphans Homestead scheme. On December 3d, by request of Mr. Mills, Mr. Simonton introduced the subject to the officers and members of Vallejo Lodge No. 64, I. O. G. T., at which time the following committee was appointed to consider the matter: George W. Simonton, A. D. Wood, and S. C. Baker. This committee immediately placed itself in communication with the Executive of the Grand Lodge, Messrs. R. R. Merrill, G. W. C. T.; W. H. Mills, G. W. S.; Mrs. F. L. Carlton, G. W. V. T.; A. C. McDougal, G. W. Counsellor. After considerable correspondence between the two committees, that first named proposed to "incorporate a Homestead Association, purchase a tract of land, donate twenty acres to the Grand Lodge as a site for a Home for Orphans, divide the remainder of the tract into lots for the Homestead, to be sold at \$100 each, and, after paying for the land and all incidental expenses, the excess of money should be placed in the hands of the Trust Committee of the Grand Lodge and the Directors of the Association, to be expended in the erection of suitable buildings on the site donated for the Home." The propositions were accepted by the Executive Committee of the Grand Lodge and one hundred and three acres were immediately purchased of John B. Frisbie, Edward Frisbie, and A. D. Wood; Messrs. Wood, Simonton, Mills, Baker, E. H. M. Bailey, and C. A. Kidder, perfecting the Articles of Incorporation, Association, By-Laws, etc., with the following named persons as the original incorporators: A. D. Wood, W. H. Mills, George W. Simonton, Mary F.

Carlton, S. C. Baker, Harriet T. Hildreth, E. H. M. Bailey, and C. A. Kidder.

On January 22, 1868, a meeting of the Directors was had at the office of S. G. Hilborn, Esq., when A. D. Wood was elected interim President, and G. W. Simonton, Secretary *pro tem*. At a subsequent meeting had, January 29, 1868, the same gentlemen, with E. H. M. Bailey as Treasurer, were named the permanent officers of the Association.

On May 4, 1868, the stockholders held their first meeting, at which time the same officers were selected, and S. C. Baker, C. A. Kidder, E. Giddings, J. F. Coffey, C. S. Haswell of California, and Adolphus Waitz of Nevada, were chosen Directors of the Association.

The enterprise was liberally supported by the members of the Order throughout the jurisdiction, many paying up the full price of the lot or shares subscribed for, viz., \$100, at once. In the report of the Secretary, G. W. Simonton, presented September 23, 1868, the following interesting statistics appear:

Total number of shares in the Association.....	334
Total number of shares sold.....	242

The following named stockholders have paid for their shares in full:

	Shares.
Elijah Wadsworth... Yreka.....	1
J. N. Chappelle..... Sacramento.....	2
Henry Miller..... Sacramento.....	2
Henry Ashcroft..... Sacramento.....	2
W. C. Ralston..... San Francisco.....	1
Horace L. Hill..... San Francisco.....	1
Alexander Badlam... San Francisco.....	1
G. H. Greenwood.... Vallejo.....	1
N. Smith..... Vallejo.....	1
Benjamin F. Cole.... Folsom.....	2

The following Lodges of Good Templers also subscribed for stock, as follows:

	Shares.
Pacific Lodge..... No. 1, of Santa Cruz, California..	1
Union Lodge..... No. 4, of Carson City, Nevada...	2
Rainbow Lodge..... No. 9, of Washoe City, Nevada...	2
Roseville Lodge..... No. 255, of Roseville, California..	1
Morning Star Lodge..... No. 25, of Marysville, California..	1
California Lodge..... No. 7, of San Francisco, California.	2
Reform Lodge..... No. 287, of Lincoln, California...	1
Vallejo Lodge..... No. 64, of Vallejo, California....	1
Maine Lodge..... No. 100, of Binghampton, California.	2
Sylvania Lodge..... No. 12, of Grass Valley, California.	2
Red Bluff Lodge..... No. 192, of Red Bluff, California..	1
Evening Star Lodge..... No. 114, of San Francisco, California.	1
Taylor Lodge..... No. 222, of Forbestown, California.	1
Grand Lodge of California.....	20



In his annual address delivered before the Grand Lodge at its ninth session in 1868, G. W. C. Templar, R. R. Merrill, speaking of this matter said: "This enterprise needs no vindication at my hands. It bears upon its face its own recommendations; its affairs have been faithfully and honorably conducted and its merits are so patent to the common sense of all men, that I feel confident it will be fully appreciated without further encomium. The thanks of this Grand Lodge are due in an eminent degree to Brothers W. H. Mills, George W. Simonton, A. D. Wood, and others, for their energy, enterprise and zeal, in conducting its affairs to its present gratifying state of success."

It should have been mentioned that at the eighth annual session of the Grand Lodge in 1867, a resolution was adopted authorizing a levy of one dollar for each member of the Order for the support of the Home. This appears to have been the first action taken towards raising money for the purpose of meeting the current expenses of the institution. At the ninth session the Constitution of the Grand Lodge was amended by the adoption of Article XVII, whereby the financial system of the Home was perfected. At this session the following persons were elected to serve as the first Board of Trustees for the Home: for the long terms, Doctor C. S. Haswell of Sacramento, George F. Mallett of Vallejo, and Joseph Middlemiss of Sacramento, those for the short terms being the Rev. N. B. Klink of Vallejo, J. A. Albertson of San Francisco, F. A. Hornblower of Sacramento, and M. H. Eastman of Marysville. At this session also the plans and specifications reported by the committee were approved by the Grand Lodge, and advertisements soon appeared for proposals to construct the building; when the time expired, however, the committee or Board of Trust found themselves without a single bid; under these circumstances it was resolved by the Board after due consideration, to build the Home by day work, and it was unanimously agreed to employ Bro. E. M. Benjamin to superintend the same; and as soon as practicable a force was set to quarry and supply stone for the foundation, which, fortunately, was obtained in the vicinity of the Home grounds. On May 11, 1869, the corner-stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies and the construction of the building progressed very rapidly. In his annual address to the Grand Lodge at its tenth session, held in the Assembly Chambers at Sacramento, September 28th of that year, the G. W. C. T., A. D. Wood, speaking of the Home said: "But few can realize the labor which the successful prosecution of this enterprise has involved. The Order and the Cause owes a debt of gratitude to the projectors of this scheme, and when its history is referred to, the names of Brothers Mills, Wood, Simonton and Benjamin should be remembered; nor should the names of Carrington, Hornblower, and others be forgotten." At the same session the Grand Secretary, W. H. Mills, closed his report on Orphan's Home matters in the following language: "In closing my official

relations with this institution, I may be indulged in the reflection that its existence and interests have occupied much of my time and thought, and I feel assured that its importance to our Order will be better understood and more fully appreciated in coming years. I indulge no fears of its failure and decline, for the Orphan's Home is in the line of true policy. If there are any who regret this and kindred undertakings, they are destined to be numbered with those who are to be forgotten when the true actors of this temperance reform come upon the stage. That reform will not go backwards. Men may desert it; they may renounce it; they may fall by the wayside; they may prove wanting in faith to believe, or courage to endure; but others will arise to take their places, and the cause will finally triumph. In success or failure our Orphan's Home will be a proud landmark in the history of our cause. Greater achievements than this are yet to be accomplished before this warfare is over; greater labors are to be endured; greater sacrifices made than any we are proposing to ourselves to-day, so, whatever may be the fate of our Home, it will have served a grand purpose, and one which cannot now be defeated."

During the session of 1869, Brothers W. H. Mills, R. R. Merritt, and F. A. Hornblower, were appointed a Committee to memorialize the Legislature at its next session, praying for a portion of such moneys as the State may set apart for the maintenance of orphans, in the State of California. This seems to have been the first step taken to secure State aid. At this session, G. W. Simonton, M. J. Wright, of Vallejo, W. H. Mills, and Brother Eastman, of Sacramento, and C. B. Proctor, of Healdsburg, were elected trustees of the Home. In accordance with a resolution passed by the Grand Lodge, on September 29, 1869, the Home was declared open for the admission of children; on and after October 1st, when it was dedicated, with imposing and impressive ceremonies Doctor C. S. Haswell, P. G. W. C. T., delivering the address in the presence of a large number of the friends of the institution.

To convey some idea of the deep interest taken by the members of the Order in this admirable undertaking, it may not be out of place to state that on the third day of the Grand Lodge Session, September 29th, Mrs. Tlomteaux and Mrs. Hayden were appointed a committee to raise a collection in the Grand Lodge, for the benefit of the Home. In a very short time they reported as collected:

Gold.....'	\$ 248 50
Currency.....	25 00

And the following individual pledges:

A. D. Wood.....	\$ 100 00
J. Bartlett.....	50 00
F. A. Hornblower.....	50 00
J. V. B. Goodrich.....	20 00
J. T. Counts.....	20 00

N. V. Wagner.....	15 00
R. Swarbrick.....	10 00
R. G. Houston.....	10 00
T. H. Woodworth.....	10 00
And others.....	20 00
Vallejo Lodge, No. 64.....	1,000 00
Sacramento.....	500 00
Brooklyn Lodge, No. 384.....	100 00
Star of Hope Lodge, No. 32.....	100 00
California Lodge, No. 7.....	100 00
Athens Lodge, No. 286.....	100 00
Union (of Nevada), No. 4.....	100 00
Woodland, No. 237.....	100 00
Eleven other lodges, \$50 each.....	550 00
San Francisco Dramatic Club.....	50 00
Thirteen lodges.....	340 00

Making a total of.....\$3,618 50

At every succeeding session of the Grand Lodge, liberal donations and pledges were made in support of this noble charity. From 1867 to 1878, inclusive, the donations and pledges thus made and paid into the Home treasury have amounted to \$31,003 61, besides \$12,504 75, *per capita*, tax raised by the Grand Lodge, for the same purpose.

While touching on the financial history of the Home, it will be proper here to repeat the closing remarks of Bro. George W. Simonton, Secretary of the Orphan Homestead Association, in his report under date September 19th, 1870: "In conclusion, permit me to say, that at the time the association was organized, we claimed the benefits to be derived from the association, to the Grand Lodge, for the Orphans' Home, would be twenty acres of land, and \$20,000. Our figures above show twenty acres of land and \$23,120 76, \$3,500 of which is represented by thirty-five lots remaining unsold."

The following Table will clearly explain the financial position of the Orphans' Home:

Nucleus of the Home Building Fund was.....	\$23,120 76
Donations from members of the Order to 1878....	31,003 61
<i>Per capita</i> tax paid by Grand Lodge.....	12,504 75
Earnings of the Home, by fees, farm, etc.....	27,509 77
Aid from the State.....	24,186 02
General Bidwell, Chico (donation).....	1,000 00
Sundry donations.....	149 25

Making a grand total of.....\$119,474 16

raised for the erection and maintenance of the institution, up to September 30th, 1878.

At the Twelfth Annual Session of the Grand Lodge, held in 1871, G. W. Simonton, W. H. Mills, A. G. Clark, and J. B. Carrington, were elected trustees of the Home. It was at this session also that Grand Secretary W. H. Mills, in his report, advised the creation of a Board of Lady Managers, to have charge of the domestic affairs of the Home; and the Grand Lodge, acting on the suggestion, elected the following as a Board of Lady Managers: Mrs. E. J. Wilson, Mrs. N. B. Klink, Mrs. G. W. Simonton, Mrs. E. M. Benjamin, of Vallejo; Mrs. E. C. Fowler, Valley Ford; Mrs. M. M. Carpenter, of San Francisco, and Mrs. C. P. Huntoon, of Sacramento.

The first Board of Trustees chosen by the Grand Lodge, at its Ninth Session (the subsequent Boards are given *seriatim*), were elected in:

1868—Doctor C. S. Haswell, Joseph Middlemiss, of Sacramento; George F. Mallett, Rev. N. B. Klink, of Vallejo; J. A. Albertson, F. A. Hornblower, and M. H. Eastman.

1869—W. H. Mills, G. W. Simonton, M. J. Wright, F. A. Hornblower, C. B. Proctor, G. F. Mallett, and Joseph Middlemiss.

1870—C. S. Haswell, G. W. Simonton, M. H. Eastman, William Carpenter, M. J. Wright, Joseph Middlemiss, and G. F. Mallett.

1871—G. W. Simonton, G. F. Mallett, C. S. Haswell, A. G. Clark, J. B. Carrington, H. Crowell, and W. H. Mills.

1872—G. W. Simonton, President; W. H. Mills, C. S. Haswell, A. G. Clark, I. S. Halsey, J. B. Carrington, and Rev. N. B. Klink.

1873—W. H. Mills, S. Kitto, C. S. Haswell, G. W. Simonton, I. S. Halsey, J. B. Carrington, and A. G. Clark.

1874—W. H. Mills, President; George B. Katzenstein, Secretary; I. S. Halsey, treasurer; S. Kitto, C. S. Haswell, G. W. Simonton, J. B. Carrington, and A. G. Clark.

1875—J. B. Carrington, President; W. Crowhurst, Secretary; I. S. Halsey, treasurer; W. H. Mills, C. S. Haswell, A. G. Clark, and S. Kitto.

1876—A. G. Clark, President; W. Crowhurst, Secretary; I. S. Halsey, treasurer; A. D. Wood, R. Thompson, W. H. Mills, and S. Kitto.

1877—A. G. Clark, President; C. H. Haile, Secretary; I. S. Halsey, Treasurer; W. H. Mills, Robert Thompson, J. B. Carrington, and S. Kitto.

1878—George B. Katzenstein, President; C. H. Haile, Secretary; I. S. Halsey, Treasurer; W. H. Mills, S. Kitto, A. G. Clark, ——— Bagley, of Stockton, and T. T. Heald.

The G. W. C. Templar and G. W. Secretary are *ex officio* members of all meetings of the Board of Trustees.



The first Board of Lady Managers chosen by the Grand Lodge (the subsequent Boards are given *seriatim*) was composed of the following ladies, who were elected in the year

1871—Mesdames N. B. Klink, President ; G. W. Simonton, Secretary ; E. J. Wilson, E. M. Benjamin, of Vallejo ; C. E. Fowler, Valley Ford ; and C. P. Huntoon, of Sacramento.

1872—Mesdames Klink, President ; Benjamin, Secretary ; Wilson, Fowler, F. L. Carlton, Huntoon, and Alsip.

1873—Mesdames Wilson, President ; Robbins, Secretary ; Huntoon, Alsip, Carlton, C. B. Thompson, and Benjamin.

1874—Mesdames Carlton, President ; Robbins, Secretary ; Wilson, Benjamin, Thompson, A. G. Clark, of Napa, and M. M. Carpenter, of San Francisco.

1875—Mesdames Carlton, President ; J. Macarty, Secretary ; Wilson, Alsip, Benjamin, Carpenter, and M. E. Partridge, of Oakland.

1876—Mesdames Carlton, President ; Klink, Secretary ; Wilson, Carpenter, Alsip, Partridge, and Clark.

1877—Mesdames Klink, President ; Carpenter and Partridge, Secretaries ; Clark, Thompson, Alsip ; V. A. Rix, of Washington Corner ; and M. G. Morris, of Vallejo.

1878—Mesdames Klink, President ; Carpenter and Thompson, Secretaries ; Alsip, Clark, Rix, and Partridge.

The first matron was Mrs. R. C. Armitage ; the second matron was Mrs. M. L. Pexton ; the third matron was Mrs. H. M. Chandler ; the fourth matron was Mrs. Geo. Morris, (*nee* Mattie Parker) ; the fifth matron was Mrs. B. Derby ; the sixth and present one, Mrs. L. Stewart.

The teachers are Mr. and Mrs. N. Smith. The average number of children who have been admitted to the Home for Orphans since its foundation, is about four hundred ; while the approximate yearly attendance has been in the vicinity of fifty and sixty. Present number one hundred and three.

The school is managed under the direction of the Board of Lady Managers, and the Vallejo Board of Education, with a daily attendance of about eighty pupils, twenty of whom are admitted from the outside. The school-rooms have been newly furnished with the best double desks, at a cost of about three hundred and fifty dollars, and paid for by voluntary subscriptions of members of the Grand Lodge, while visiting the Home in October last. We next draw attention to the

## NAPA AND SOLANO AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL ARTS SOCIETY.

Was incorporated on June 24, 1872, under the Presidentship of M. R. Miller, with Messrs. J. B. Frisbie, and John M. Gregory, Jr., as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively; and has for its object the holding of a District Fair, embracing the counties of Napa, Solano, Yolo, Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin, when premiums are offered in the following departments: Live Stock, Cereals, Fruits, Wines, and Dairy Products, as well as for all manner of Agricultural Implements made in the district; Domestic Manufactures; Carriages, Buggies, etc.; Saddlery, Harness, etc.: Painting, Ornamental Work, etc.; Embroidery, Needlework, etc.; Bread, Crackers, etc.; Plants, Bouquets, etc.; with a special class where prizes are offered to children. Special premiums are open to competitors; while there is a speed programme which is carried out on each of the days during which the fair is held. The exhibition grounds and park are situated on the Napa road, about three miles from Vallejo, and cover an area of sixty acres, having buildings for the benefit of exhibitors; while there is accommodation for from two to three hundred animals. The hotel is a two-storied erection of handsome appearance; the sheds are all in the very best condition; while nothing is wanting that may ensure the comfort of the visitor. The race track is declared to be, by men of experience, one of the very best in the country for speed, while it possesses many other advantages. Up, until last year, the Society was more or less a private one; but by operation of the Legislature last session, a sum of fifteen hundred dollars was granted to them, which now officializes their position, and calls for a yearly report from them to the State Board of Agriculture. The officers for the present year are: President, John B. Carrington; Vice-President, John T. Dare; Secretary, A. J. McPike; Treasurer, J. K. Duncan; Directors, John E. Williston, L. B. Abernethie, Robert Brownlee, W. P. Durbin, John Neate, John Callender, J. B. Hoyt, Stephen Eaton, John Wilson, William Carter, H. Connolly, John Brownlie, D. W. Harrier, C. Hartson, Luke Kelly, A. Goodyear, W. A. Fisher, J. C. Wolfskill, John Farnham, J. M. Thompson, S. S. Drake.

Meetings are usually held in September of each year.

We have, in the commencement of this chapter, entered upon the appearance of the county in the days when but few white men had penetrated into its wilds. A faint attempt was made to picture the beauties of the wild waste, as described by the first settlers in Solano; we now select a spot whither to allure the reader, namely, the

## WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS.

Of all the spots worthy of a visit in the vicinity of Vallejo, none can, probably, compare with the White Sulphur Springs in regard to the beauty

of its surroundings. Originally being included in the grant to General Vallejo, he disposed of them to Milton Brockman, who, in turn, sold them to Henry Connolly, from him they were purchased by General J. B. Frisbie, and latterly, falling into the hands of the Vallejo Land and Improvement Association, the property was bought by James Kelly, the present proprietor, for the trifling sum of twenty-five thousand dollars. When the Springs became the property of General Frisbie he, with a taste which it would be next to impossible to excel, ornamented the grounds in the most lavish manner, expending no less a sum than one hundred and thirty thousand dollars in beautifying the property which consists of about one hundred and sixty acres. The management of the White Sulphur Springs is now vested in Mr. James Condon, than whom no more hospitable a host exists.

These Springs lie in a north-easterly direction from Vallejo, with which city they are connected by coach, which runs the distance of four miles, direct from the railroad depot, and are situated in a hollow of the hills, which rise in easy slopes, surrounding them on all sides and protecting the grounds from the rough breezes of the bay. The road passes through a country of rare cultivation, cattle may be seen browsing on a thousand hills; while the residences of the thriving farmers, with the bright sun glittering on their whitened walls, add an appearance of life to the scene, which goes a great way towards enlivening the prospect. For rare beauty the environs cannot be surpassed. In spring and summer the flowers and foliage attain their truest perfection; the former in their brilliant colors, forming a charming contrast against the darker leaves of the trees. A small lake has been excavated, around which are secluded walks and cosy seats, placed within the shadow of the spreading weeping willow. An island in the centre, which is gained by a bridge or boats, is laid out with marvelous skill, revealing many a gorgeous vista of color; here, again, the weary may find rest, the social enjoy their *tete-a-tete*, or the book-worm be free from intrusion. Summer houses and kiosks are built along the margin of the water, arranged with tables and rustic chairs, where the merry tea or enchanting kettle-drum may be partaken; while labyrinthine walks traverse the grounds in all directions, amply shaded by umbrageous trees, offering seclusion to those who may wish to converse with "ling'ring sweetness long-drawn out." Canopied bowers and bosky dells, evergreen shrubbies, flower gardens and vineyard, diversify the sloping surface and give a fairy-like effect to the landscape that cannot well prove otherwise than enchanting to the visitor. Nature has given the White Sulphur Spring a magnificence of position which recalls the most perfect spots of Swiss scenery, and forms a watering place where the votary of pleasure may find delight, and the hard-worked city merchant obtain relaxation from the cares of business.

## THE SPRINGS

Are cosily placed in a recess in the mountain side forming a small pond of about forty feet in circumference and built around with a rockery over which creepers and lichens cling in tangled confusion. The water presents a pale bluish color, imparting at first a slightly unpleasant odor, and is protected from the rays of the sun by a large weeping willow, while contiguous to it is a circular seat and table whereat the invalid or the curious may take the waters, which is not by any means unpleasant to the palate. The liquid it is believed has never been properly analyzed but it is principally composed of sulphur with a very slight proportion of iron. To prove that there is nothing obnoxious in its flavor, this water is generally used on the premises, while the stock on the ground drink it with great relish. Adjacent to those already described there is a sweet water spring bubbling forth the clearest and most delicious beverage for those who may not appreciate the medicinal properties of the former.

## THE BUILDINGS

On the grounds are all of framework and of elegant design approached by a well kept carriage drive. The first erection which is passed on arrival is a kind of bachelors' home, for on the first floor is the saloon, containing bar and billiard room which connects by an archway; the appointments in these apartments are of the first order and in themselves should be an inducement to visitors. Off these there are lesser rooms, one being fitted up with a telegraphic apparatus, the wires of which connect with Vallejo and thence to San Francisco, while the other is used as a barber's shop and office. The second story is divided into one parlor or club-room, seven bedrooms and a large and convenient bath-room with all the necessary improvements. Some fifty yards from this building stands the main structure, of two stories in height and protected on three sides by a spacious verandah. A wide flight of steps flanked on either side by well laid out parterres of flowers leads to the piazza from which entry is made into a dining room of grand proportions capable of accommodating one hundred and fifty guests, while adjoining it are spacious and well furnished sitting parlors. The upper floor is entirely devoted to bed chambers of which there are sixteen of various sizes and all furnished with a view to the comfort of the occupants. Near the lake there is a neat detached building called Knoll Cottage, while in close proximity to the sulphur spring there are two others named respectively Spring and Linda Vista Cottages. These detached residences each contain one large room with alcove for bed, and three small single rooms, with lavatory, all furnished and carpetted with every regard to comfort. These tenements are also provided with verandahs, those of the two



latter commanding a prospect of the most ravishing order, situated as they are, half-way up the mountain, a panorama of the country is had, with all its variations of hill and dale, light and shadow; while in the distance a glimpse is caught of the church towers and higher situated houses of Vallejo, backed in the distance by the expanse of water of the San Pablo bay and the coast range of mountains. The cottages are all that could be desired for families, or a party of friends.

THE BATHS are eight in number, and are connected with the Springs by means of pipes, and thence distributed into the different rooms, where the receptacles are tin-lined. In a large room attached, is a monster boiler from which hot water is conveyed, which may, with a shower in each, be used at will.

THE STABLES, too, are a feature on the premises, there being stalls for twenty-five horses; sheds for buggies, and the necessary harness-rooms, with water laid on throughout.

GAS is the means by which the different buildings are illuminated, which is manufactured in a gasometer, some distance off, and which answers admirably.

No description of the White Sulphur Springs can be considered complete without reference to the high mountain at the foot of which it stands. Capped, as it is, by large, unwieldy boulders, heaped upon each other in utter chaos, the ascent to which is gradual and smooth, and will well repay the adventurer to its summit; for from thence a grand and magnificent view, which brings, on a clear day, the city of San Francisco within its ken, is to be obtained. Nowhere within such easy distance of the coast metropolis does there exist so pleasant a locality for recreation; and with the many advantages of comfort and accessibility, which the Springs now possess, there is no reason why it should not be the most fashionable resort in California.

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### TOLENAS SPRINGS.

Among the various wonders that nature has so lavishly bestowed upon California, but few are more deserving of notice than her Mineral Springs. As though intending that every physical ill should be provided with an antidote, healing waters are made to rush forth from the bowels of the earth, and bubble up on the tops and sides of mountain chains. In these, the counties of Solano and Napa seem to be the most favored.

The Solano, or Tolenas Springs—to the description of which the attention

of our readers will now be confined—are situated about five miles north of Suisun City, at an elevation of eleven hundred feet above the level of the sea, and in the midst of the most beautiful climate and romantic scenery. For more than half the distance the road from Suisun runs across the level valley, that, in the spring, is carpetted with green turf and variegated with flowers of every hue. Groves of dark green oaks, with an occasional farmhouse peeping from among the foliage, and here and there live stock quietly reposing, or eagerly feeding, display a scene of beauty which can be rarely surpassed.

Ascending the steep but smoothly sloped and gently rounded hills, dotted with trees, a panorama of vast extent and great beauty is rolled out before you. To the south-east a broad plain extends as far as the eye can reach; to the south Mount Diablo is the crowning point of a long chain of hills; to the east, and north-east, the shimmering tops of the snow-covered Sierra Nevadas shine through the deepening haze, with a richer glow than the glittering gold that is hidden deep beneath their icy crest.

Arriving at "Empire Spring," and looking down the cañon, is the "White Sulphur Spring." Before going further perhaps it ought to be mentioned that there are several mineral springs in this chain of hills, the principal of which seem to be the Empire, White Sulphur, Seltzer, and Congress. The former is located near the head of a ravine, on the south side of Soda Spring Cañon. This spring furnishes a considerable volume of water, that issues in a jet, with a gurgling noise at intervals of from one to two seconds. The numerous bubbles that rise to the surface would indicate the pressure of a larger amount of carbonic acid gas in this than in any of the other springs; but a careful analysis has failed to confirm it.

The White Sulphur Spring, as I have said, is near the foot of the cañon, some 200 feet above the bed of the small stream that runs through the latter. The flow of water from this spring is small, probably not more than from three to four gallons daily, but it is highly impregnated with sulphur, the smell of which is perceptible for some distance. From this spring can be seen the famous Suisun marble quarry.

The Congress Spring is but a short distance from the Empire, and very much resembles the latter, except that the escapement of gas is less.

The Seltzer Spring is on the west side of the divide, overlooking the upper portion of Suisun valley. Its pellucid and sparkling waters are equal in taste to the best soda water ever drank, eclipsing in flavor at least, the more celebrated Congress and Empire. Each of the springs, with the exception of the White Sulphur, issues from the fissures of a light, porous calcareous rock, of singular formation.

These mineral waters have been known to, and even the resort of native Californians, for many years; but they have received but little attention until recently, when the following careful analysis of two of the springs by

Dr. Hewston of San Francisco, discovered the valuable medicinal properties they contain.

Component Parts.	Congress.	Empire.
Specific gravity.....	1.0056	1.0132
Iodide of Potassium.....	0.24	1.64
Chloride of Potassium.....	0.71	1.66
Chloride of Sodium.....	26.90	90.83
Carbonate of Soda.....	6.67	14.38
Biborate of Soda.....	2.57	6.44
Carbonate of Lime.....	6.04	4.46
Carbonate of Magnesia.....	1.36	4.57
Carbonate of Iron.....	0.08	0.09
Alumina.....	0.12	trace.
Selica.....	0.20	0.40
Dry solid matter in 1 pint.....	45.00	124.47
Free Carb. Acid gas, cub. in.....	33.735	26.297

Their value will be better appreciated by the persual of the following note from Drs. I. Rowell and B. A. Sheldon, and with which we shall close this description.

“We have carefully examined the results of Doctor Hewston’s analysis of the waters of the Congress and Empire Springs, and believe them possessed of remedial virtues superior to any other of the vaunted waters of California, and equal to any in the world. Their tonic, alterative, antacid and aperient qualities render them invaluable, when judiciously administered, in the treatment of various chronic affections.”

The consumption of these waters is becoming general throughout the State, superseding in a great measure that from Napa county.

Mention has elsewhere been made of the

#### MARBLE QUARRY

Near Suisun, the property of Judge Swan. We append *verbatim* the report to that gentleman of a Geological Survey of the locality, made by Mr. Charles Rueger in 1876.

“From the examination of your property above specified, as made in your company, I have come to the following conclusions; of course such a local examination of the grounds specified, does not enable me to give a correct picture of the geology of the entire vicinity, or an idea of the mineralogical value of lands adjoining near and far. My problem has been,

as I conceived, merely to determine what of useful mineral is to be found on your property, above specified. That is to say, what I have not examined I cannot judge of.

The rock formation on the above lands consist of alternating strata or layers of sandstone, limestone and argillaceous shale with an abundant variety of transition rocks ; particularly of marls.

The strata have the strike, or course, of the Coast Range, the eruption of which was evidently the cause of their upheaval in ages past. Their dip is therefore naturally to the north-east, the strike being N.W.—S.E. This agrees with the general position of the stratified rocks of the slate, and therefore serve as to guide the identification of strata in their continuation at a distance.

There are many peculiarities in these strata that point to the coal formation as the one to which they are probably to be ranked, even if they did not stand in line with the Mount Diablo coal deposits. Nothing of a fossil nature was found, however, to support or confirm such an opinion. Of course even the presence of strata, incident to the coal formation, would not necessitate the presence of coal strata, but merely makes it possible. The experience and geology of many regions shows this, and more. In Switzerland, for instance, the coal formation is largely represented, and coal found in many places, but a number of companies have failed in the vain effort to find a paying deposit. They have been found invariably to be of limited extent, though often of good quality.

In order to make my remarks better understood, I subjoin an outline of the topography of the locality from the county map, and have sketched in the approximate position of the various strata, as observed.\* The figures give the source of the specimens of corresponding number, as accompanying this report. The dotted lines show the courses taken in three days' examination of the ground.

The course over the Marble Quarry Hill, gave the following observations of importance :

The hill consists mainly of sandstone strata forming the north-east side, and a limestone strata on the south-west side, inter-stratified with sandstone. The hill in which the old quarry and the lime-kilns are situated, seems to be, partially, at least, a pile of *debris*, agglomerated by a calcareous deposit of *speml*.

The variegated marble in the quarry, occurs in disconnected masses in the *debris*, which, although facilitating, on account of its looseness, the quarrying work, predominates to an extent, and is in itself so worthless as to outweigh the advantage mentioned.

These detached blocks of variegated marble would probably lead ulti-

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\*The sketch referred to above, is, unfortunately, not procurable.



mately to a continuous main deposit. This, I think, would be found somewhat higher on the slope, or farther east, and prove to be a continuation of the marble vein, which is found abruptly cut off or dislocated, near the boulders and cliffs forming the brow of the hill adjoining on the north.

Following our course, we find on the west slope of the hill, the dense, reddish-yellow limestone No. 2. This will burn pretty white, and make a good mortar lime.

On the point of the north-west slope of the hill, we find the dense, cream-colored limestone No. 3, distinguishable from a distance by its marked light color. This is certainly the best limestone found by me on the whole ground. It burns very white, slacks very readily, and makes a rich lime.

The value of the limestones, Nos. 2 and 3, is enhanced by the fact that, in them is situated the well defined ledge or vein of variegated marble No. 4. This, together with the situation on the slope of the hill, would make it possible to combine the quarrying of the two, and, therefore, render the operation, more profitable than if they were apart.

The vein of variegated marble above spoken of, runs in a line from there to the top of the hill in a south-easterly direction, dipping No. 3, and is two-fourths feet thick. It is distinctly defined for a distance of several hundred feet, and, I have no doubt, reaches to a considerable depth. The marble, when polished, is of great beauty, and would be made of considerable value in countries where labor is cheap. It is only fit, however, for inside ornamental purposes, such as mantles for fire-places, etc.; is a fissured structure, favoring destruction by atmospheric action. At the marble works of Mr. Heverin, on Jackson street, between Montgomery and Lawrence, in this city (San Francisco), specimens of finished work from this marble can be seen in form of a fire front, and a block for the Vienna Exposition, both of which show the peculiarities and great beauty of this marble to the best advantage.

At the top of the hill this marble vein strikes the sandstone strata, which then forms the wall-rock of another smaller vein of the same marble, striking in from the north-east. This vein cuts off or dislocates, the main vein; at any rate, they are both lost in the boulders and precipitous cliffs forming the south side of the brow of the hill. It is probable, however, their continuation will be found on the south-west slope, and that the quarry marble is from this continuation. The dislocation is also apparent in the sandstone and limestone strata.

Crossing the sandstone in an easterly direction, we find on the east slope of Quarry Hill a number of soda springs. One of these — the highest up on the hill — shows an oily seum floating on top of the water. This is the only acknowledged indication of the presence of coal that I have found on the premises. That this indication is too indefinite to be of any value, needs, I think, no explanation to any one at all acquainted with the origin,



fibrous powder, assuming, at the same time, a permanent brownish-gray color. This powder, when treated with water, shows no sign of slacking. These reactions would indicate the mineral to be dolomite; but this is belied by its form, its inferior hardness, and the readiness with which it emits its carbonic acid and dissolves in coal muriatic acid. It may be classed, therefore, a dolomitic, calcite or magnesian limestone.

It has been satisfactorily proven that certain magnesian limestones make excellent hydraulic mortar and cement, particularly adapted for salt water work. I, therefore, at once tested the mineral for its qualities in this direction, but with unsatisfactory results. It is lacking in the proper proportion of magnesia. With the discovery of a magnesia deposit of suitable nature, the rock could be made valuable—not otherwise, to my knowledge.

It is needless for me to express my opinion in regard to the mineral or soda springs in this section of your premises; anyone who has seen them and tasted the water must bear witness to their good qualities.

As regards its practical value, I can form but an imperfect opinion. It seems to me its best day is past, and that now it is merely a question of successful competition and, perhaps, attraction of locality. The experience of European springs of note, has shown that after their situation, other chance circumstances determine their fate, ahead of their intrinsic qualities. I cite Carlsbad, Ems, Wiesbaden, Baden-Baden. In dreams of the future and its possibilities, I cannot indulge.

Following our course of examination in a southerly direction, the extent of the deposit of dolomitic limestone was evident, from the pieces of it strewn over the hills, within the boundaries of the limestone strata, for a distance of over a quarter of a mile. Crossing, then, the limestone going east, there is found on the southern slope of the hills, a top-ground of decomposed limestone containing, however, considerable clay. This, on account of its softness, would probably make excellent material for agricultural purposes, to mix with soils requiring lime—tule lands, for instance. No. 11.

My attention was then drawn by Judge Swan to lumps of the radical fibrous mineral, No. 12, which, at first sight, I thought might be fibrous gypsum. This, however, was at once disproved by its hardness; gypsum yielding to the nail, this barely to the knife. It is arognite—a peculiar quality of carbonate of lime—and of no value except for a mineral collection.

The further examination elicited nothing more of interest.

The third day's course of examination began at about D, and was made with a particular view to the discovery of coal indications.

Following up the creek bed, from the point where it is claimed specimens of coal were found in 1862, I crossed the limestone, sandstone, and clay shale strata, common to the locality, without discovering in the drift any-

thing new except specimens of hornblendic rock—a peculiar conglomerate—and some new varieties of argillaceous limestone or marl, similar to those found on marble-quarry hill; Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, are specimens from both places, having, more or less, the characteristics of what is termed cement rock than any other found. My examination of it has shown it to be such, of serviceable quality. All of the other rocks, of the same class enumerated, could be made serviceable for the manufacture of cement, though it would probably need judicious mixture of different varieties to attain good results. Nothing but experiments on a large scale could settle these points satisfactorily, since it is a well-known fact to cement manufacturers of experience, that a material may contain all the necessary constituents of cement in proper quantity, and yet not make good cement.

My course was thence taken to the east, as far as the road, to visit another point, where coal is claimed to have been found in digging a well; thence up the ravine to the north, going west, crossing the sandstone and shale strata both ways. The course, from the top of the hill, was taken southward, down the deep ravine, forming the main branch of the creek in which the coal was found. At the head of this ravine are found thick beds of a sandy shale, in their distorted laminae, No. 20, indicating an irruptive action in the vicinity. Further down was found the bed of peculiar conglomerate before mentioned, No. 21. I speak of this because such conglomerates, of the most varied kind, are oftenest met in the coal formations, and are valuable as giving a clue to the nature of the rocks of the less immediate vicinity. The shells in this specimen are not perfect enough to be determined, otherwise they would be a clue.

Farther down, I found boulders of synite, and the solid rock itself, protruding on the east side of the ravine. This explains the distortion of the strata in the vicinity—Nos. 22 and 23.

Part of this synite is exceedingly rich in hornblende; more so than the small piece attached. May not such massive hornblende have been mistaken for coal, since the latter seems to have been found (12) only in the vicinity of this hornblendic rock? I, at least, can find no indication of its presence than the vagueness mentioned.

Cinnabar, or other quicksilver ore, will not be found, I think, on your land.

The examination developed nothing more of interest.

*Resumé.*—The materials on your premises, which may be considered in the question of value, are: The limestones, Nos. 2 and 3; the variegated marble, No. 4; the soda springs, and some of the varieties of cement rock mentioned.

In considering the cost of burning limestone, it may be mentioned that Santa Cruz lime, of superior quality, is sold here (San Francisco) at the rate of \$2 per barrel of 250 pounds, gross—say 230 pounds, net.



In regard to the cost of production, I have tried to obtain notes on the experience in this State, but, as might be expected, did not succeed. I can only give the following:

In the best kilns at present used in Germany, the results are:

For  $3\frac{1}{2}$  tons lime,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cords wood, (kind not given) or 1 ton of good coal.

Production about 10 tons per day in kilns of the largest build. As much as  $3\frac{3}{4}$  tons of lime is burned in some places with the above proportion of fuel.

Kilns of the foregoing kind, as were generally used, burn only 6-7 tons lime per twenty-four hours.

A somewhat different kind—simpler—kiln used near the Rhine, is only about half as large, and turns out per day one and a half and one and three quarters tons of lime, with a consumption of say one cord of good, dry pine wood.

The patent furnaces of Hoffman & Licht, such as are used by the Patent Brick Company of San Francisco, to burn brick, will turn out 6-8 tons lime per day, consuming only 2,900 to 3,900 pounds good coal.

These furnaces are all expensive to build, especially the first and last mentioned.

A cheap form of kiln is also much used, in which the fuel is mixed with the limestone, as in burning cement at Benicia. It will turn out 5-5 $\frac{1}{2}$  tons lime, with a consumption of two tons of coal.

Taking the last form of kiln as a basis, an approximate calculation of the total cost of delivering lime to market, I calculated it to be 50 to 60 dollars for five tons, or, say 40 barrels. This makes \$1.25 to \$1.50 per barrel. Santa Cruz lime, as above, selling at \$2.00, it would not be safe to count on more than \$1.75.

From this I judge that with the use of coal as fuel, and a good kiln, lime burning could be carried on with good profit on your premises at the point specified. I do not think it would be more than a profitable business.

In respect to the value of marble, I can give the following:

Italian marble, per cubic foot.....	\$3 00 to	\$12 00
Vermont " " " .....	5 00 "	5 50
Variiegated foreign marble, per cubic foot....	3 00 "	5 00
Suisun marble, per cubic foot.....	1 00 "	1 50

I have been to a number of marble yards in this city, but could get no offer or estimate out of anyone for the Suisun marble, though they all admitted that it was a fine stone, etc. Mr. Heverin seems to be the only one that takes any interest in the matter, and he will therefore be best able to determine what can be done with the marble. The marble, it seems, is more difficult to work than the imported, and the preference of the product to others is a matter of taste, and therefore a high price asked. These con-

siderations limit the market for it, and make its intrinsic value more questionable than in the case of a large deposit of a less rare material. As I said before, Mr. Heverin is at present best able to give positive information on this.

Although the material is abundant for the manufacture of Portland cement, it would be difficult at present to compete with the factory at Benicia, I think, since they have also found an abundance of rock near their factory."

We will now draw this already lengthy chapter to a close; it has been impossible to follow every outline of the settlement of Solano county up to its present state of prominent prosperity, while it has been a hard task to verify the dates of the earlier arrivals. All would appear to have gone through the earlier toils of pioneer life without any special regard to the flight of time, save wherein it was to bring them to their desired goal; hence it has been no easy task to arrive at the information we now lay before the reader. In bidding adieu to the subject of settlement, therefore, the sad story of the Donner party may not be uninteresting, especially as some of the survivors are well known to residents of Solano.

Tuthill's History of California tells us: "Of the overland emigration to California, in 1846, about eighty wagons took a new route, from fort Bridger, around the south end of Great Salt Lake. The pioneers of the party arrived in good season over the mountains; but Mr. Reed's and Mr. Donner's companies opened a new route through the desert, lost a month's time by their explorations, and reached the foot of the Truckee pass, in the Sierra Nevada, on the 31st of October, instead of the 1st, as they had intended. The snow began to fall on the mountains two or three weeks earlier than usual that year, and was already piled up in the Pass that they could not proceed. They attempted it repeatedly, but were as often forced to return. One party built their cabins near the Truckee Lake, killed their cattle, and went into winter quarters. The other (Donner's) party, still believed that they could thread the pass, and so failed to build their cabins before more snow came and buried their cattle alive. Of course these were soon utterly destitute of food, for they could not tell where the cattle were buried, and there was no hope of game on a desert so piled with snow that nothing without wings could move. The number of those who were thus storm-stayed, at the very threshold of the land whose winters are one long spring, was eighty, of whom thirty were females, and several children. The Mr. Donner who had charge of one company, was an Illinoian, sixty years of age, a man of high respectability and abundant means. His wife was a woman of education and refinement, and much younger than he.

During November it snowed thirteen days; during December and January, eight days in each. Much of the time the tops of the cabins were below the snow level.

It was six weeks after the halt was made that a party of fifteen, including five women and two Indians who acted as guides, set out on snow-shoes to cross the mountains, and give notice to the people of the California settlements of the condition of their friends. At first the snow was so light and feathery that even in snow-shoes they sank nearly a foot at every step. On the second day they crossed the "divide," finding the snow at the summit twelve feet deep. Pushing forward with the courage of despair, they made from four to eight miles a day.

Within a week they got entirely out of provisions; and three of them, succumbing to cold, weariness, and starvation, had died. Then a heavy snow-storm came on, which compelled them to lie still, buried between their blankets under the snow, for thirty-six hours. By the evening of the tenth day three more had died, and the living had been four days without food. The horrid alternative was accepted—they took the flesh from the bones of their dead, remained in camp two days to dry it, and then pushed on.

On New Years, the sixteenth day since leaving Truckee Lake, they were toiling up a steep mountain. Their feet were frozen. Every step was marked with blood. On the second of January, their food again gave out. On the third, they had nothing to eat but the strings of their snow-shoes. On the fourth, the Indians eloped, justly suspicious that they might be sacrificed for food. On the fifth, they shot a deer, and that day one of their number died. Soon after three others died, and every death now eked out the existence of the survivors. On the seventeenth, all gave out, and concluded their wanderings useless, except one. He, guided by two stray friendly Indians, dragged himself on till he reached a settlement on Bear river. By midnight the settlers had found and were treating with all Christian kindness what remained of the little company that, after more than a month of the most terrible sufferings, had that morning halted to die.

The story that there were emigrants perishing on the other side of the snowy barrier ran swiftly down the Sacramento Valley to New Helvetia, and Captain Sutter, at his own expense, fitted out an expedition of men and of mules laden with provisions, to cross the mountains and relieve them. It ran on to San Francisco, and the people, rallying in public meeting, raised fifteen hundred dollars, and with it fitted out another expedition. The naval commandant of the port fitted out still others.

The first of the relief parties reached Truckee Lake on the nineteenth of February. Ten of the people in the nearest camp were dead. For four weeks those who were still alive had fed only on bullocks' hides. At Donner's camp they had but one hide remaining. The visitors left a small supply of provisions with the twenty-nine whom they could not take with them, and started back with the remainder. Four of the children they carried on their backs.

Another of the relief parties reached Truckee Lake on the first of March.



They immediately started back with seventeen of the sufferers; but, a heavy snow storm overtaking them, they left all, except three of the children, on the road. Another party went after those who were left on the way; found three of them dead, and the rest sustaining life by feeding on the flesh of the dead.

The last relief party reached Donner's camp late in April, when the snows had melted so much that the earth appeared in spots. The main cabin was empty, but some miles distant they found the last survivor of all lying on the cabin floor smoking his pipe. He was ferocious in aspect, savage and repulsive in manner. His camp-kettle was over the fire and in it his meal of human flesh preparing. The stripped bones of his fellow-sufferers lay around him. He refused to return with the party, and only consented when he saw there was no escape.

Mrs. Donner was the last to die. Her husband's body, carefully laid out and wrapped in a sheet, was found at his tent. Circumstances led to the suspicion that the survivor had killed Mrs. Donner for her flesh and her money, and when he was threatened with hanging, and the rope tightened around his neck, he produced over five hundred dollars in gold, which, probably, he had appropriated from her store."

In relation to this dreary story of suffering, this portion of our history will be concluded by the narration of the prophetic dream of George Yount, attended, as it was, with such marvelous results.

At this time, (the winter of 1846) while residing in Napa county, of which, as has been already remarked, he was the pioneer settler, he dreamt that a party of emigrants were snow-bound in the Sierra Nevadas, high up in the mountains, where they were suffering the most distressing privations from cold and want of food. The locality where his dream had placed these unhappy mortals, he had never visited, yet so clear was his vision that he described the sheet of water surrounded by lofty peaks, deep-covered with snow, while on every hand towering pine trees reared their heads far above the limitless waste. In his sleep he saw the hungry human beings ravenously tear the flesh from the bones of their fellow creatures, slain to satisfy their craving appetites, in the midst of a gloomy desolation. He dreamed his dream on three successive nights, after which he related it to others, among whom were a few who had been on hunting expeditions in the Sierras. These wished for a precise description of the scene foreshadowed to him. They recognized the Truckee, now the Donner Lake. On the strength of this recognition Mr. Yount fitted out a search expedition, and, with these men as guides, went to the place indicated, and, prodigious to relate, was one of the successful relieving parties to reach the ill-fated Donner party.



## THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF SOLANO COUNTY.

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EARLY POLITICAL HISTORY—FIRST CIVIL OFFICER COMMISSIONED—GOVERNOR BOGGS AND STEPHEN COOPER APPOINTED ALCALDES—PEOPLE OBJECT TO A MILITARY GOVERNMENT—PROCLAMATION OF BRIG.-GENERAL RILEY—THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION—SUPERIOR TRIBUNAL OF CALIFORNIA IN 1849—APPOINTMENT OF JUDGE OF FIRST INSTANCE—FIRST ELECTION TICKETS—FIRST ELECTION IN SOLANO COUNTY—ELECTION MATTERS FROM 1850 TO 1877—TABLE OF OFFICERS FROM 1850 TO 1877.

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The early political history of Solano county is enveloped in considerable mystery. Prior to the acquisition of California by the Government of the United States, the large District of Sonoma, which included all the territory between the Sacramento river and the ocean, and Oregon and the Bay of San Francisco, was under the rule of the Mexican Government, who promulgated their laws after the year 1835, when General Vallejo took command, from Sonoma. The District was apportioned into Prefectures, amenable to a grand council at that town, the holders of office being known as Alcaldes.

The first civil officer commissioned, after the American occupation, was John Nash. He had a very exalted idea of the dignity of his office; assumed ministerial as well as judicial powers; signed himself "Chief Justice of California," and otherwise made himself and his office ridiculous. Squire Nash, as his neighbors called him, was a good-natured, illiterate, but honest man, who was employed by several persons to proceed to the mines on the discovery of gold in 1848. He returned with gold dust to the value of eight hundred dollars, and shortly after, going to Mormon Island with a company of Sonoma miners, he died there during the winter. He was succeeded in office by Lilburn W. Boggs, Ex-Governor of Missouri, in the office of Alcalde; a like appointment being made for Benicia City, as will be seen by the accompanying commission:

"Know all men by these presents, that I, Richard B. Mason, Colonel 1st Regiment of Dragoons, United States Army, and Governor of California, by virtue of authority in me vested, do hereby appoint Stephen Cooper an Alcalde at Benicia City, at present in the District of Sonoma.

"Given at Monterey, the Capital of California, this third day of January, A. D. 1848, and of the Independence of the United States the 72d.

(Signed)

"R. B. MASON,

[OFFICIAL SEAL.]

"Col. 1st Dragoons,

"Governor of California."

Let us see what was the state of the political horizon at that time. According to Tuthill—as to civil law, the country was utterly at sea. It had a governor in the person of the commandant of the military district it belonged to, but no government. While the war lasted California, as a

conquered province, expected to be governed by military officers who, by virtue of their command of the Department, bore sway over all the territory that their Department embraced. But after peace had come and the succession of military governors was not abated, a people who had been in the habit of governing themselves, under the same flag and the same constitution, chafed that a simple change of longitude should deprive them of their inalienable rights.

General Persifer F. Smith, who assumed command on arriving by the *California*, the first steamship that reached San Francisco (February 28, 1849), and General Riley, who succeeded him (April 13, 1849), would have been acceptable governors enough, if the people could have discovered anywhere in the Constitution that the President had power to govern a territory by a simple order to the commandant of a military department. The power was obvious in time of war; but in peace it was unprecedented. Left entirely to themselves, the people could have organized a squatter sovereignty, as Oregon had done, and the way into the sister-hood of States was clear.

They felt that they had cause for complaint, but in truth they were too busy to nurse their grievance and make much of it. To some extent they formed local governments, and had unimportant collisions with the military. But, busy as they were, and expecting to return home soon, they humored their contempt for politics, and left public matters to be shaped at Washington. Nor was this so unwise a course under the circumstances, for the thing that had hindered Congress from giving them a legitimate constitutional government was the ever-present snag in the current of American political history, the author of most of our woes, the great mother of mischief on the Western continent—Slavery.

When it was found that Congress had adjourned without doing anything for California, Brigadier-General Riley, by the advice, he said, of the President, and Secretaries of State and of War, issued a Proclamation, which was at once a call for a convention, and an official exposition of the Administration's theory of the anomalous relations of California, and the Union. He strove to rectify the impression that California was governed by the military arm of the service; that had ceased with the termination of hostilities. What remained was the civil government, recognized by the existing laws of California. These were vested in a governor, who received his appointment from the supreme government or, in default of such appointment, the office was vested in the commanding military officer of the department, a secretary, a departmental or territorial legislature, a superior court with four judges, a prefect and sub-prefect, and a judge of the first instance for each district, alcaldes, local justices of the peace, ayuntamientos, or town councils. He moreover recommended the election, at the same time, of delegates to a convention to adopt either a State or Territorial Constitution which, if acquiesced in by the people, would be submitted for approval to Congress.

In accordance with these announcements we find that the "Superior Tribunal of California" existed at Monterey in 1849, for in September of that year a "Tariff of Fees for Judiciary offices" was published, with the following order of the Court: "That the several officers mentioned in this order shall be entitled to receive for their services, in addition to their regular salary, if any, the following fees, and none other, until the further order of this Court." Here is added a list of the fees to be appropriated by Judges of First Instance, Alcaldes and Justices of the Peace, Clerks of the several courts, Sheriff, or Comisario, District Attorney, and Notaries Public.

Stephen Cooper, already alcalde of the city of Benicia, was appointed by General Riley, in August, Judge of First Instance, and commenced his labors in that function in October, 1849, as appears in the only record of the proceedings of that Court extant in the office of the county clerk, at Fairfield.

The record of one of the cases tried is reproduced as an instance of the short but quick justice that was doled out in 1849:

"The People of California Territory,

vs.

George Palmer.

"And now comes the said people by right their attorney, and the said defendant by Semple and O'Melveny, and the prisoner having been arraigned on the indictment in this cause, plead not guilty. Thereupon a jury was chosen, selected, and sworn, when, after hearing the evidence and argument of counsel, returned into Court the following verdict, to wit:

"The jury, in the case of Palmer, defendant, and the State of California, plaintiff, have found a verdict of guilty on both counts of the indictment, and sentenced him to receive the following punishment, to wit:

"On Saturday, the 24th day of November, to be conducted by the sheriff to some public place and there receive on his bare back seventy-five lashes, with such weapon as the sheriff may deem fit, on each count respectively, and to be banished from the district of Sonoma within twelve hours after whipping, under penalty of receiving the same number of lashes for each and every day he remains in the district, after the first whipping.

"(Signed) ALEXANDER RIDDELL,

"Foreman.

"It is therefore ordered by the Court, in accordance with the above verdict, that the foregoing sentence be carried into effect."

The manifesto calling a Constitutional Convention divided the electoral divisions of the State into ten districts; each male inhabitant of the country, of twenty-one years of age, could vote in the district of his residence, and the delegates so elected were called upon to meet at Monterey, on the 1st day of September, 1849. The number of delegates was fixed at thirty-seven, five of which were apportioned to San Francisco. Those elected from the district of Sonoma, were General Vallejo, Joel Walker, R.



Simple. L. W. Boggs was also elected, but did not attend. As resolved, the Convention met at Monterey on the date above named, Robert Simple, of Benicia, one of the delegates from the district of Sonoma, being chosen president. The session lasted six weeks; and notwithstanding an awkward scarcity of books of reference and other necessary aids, much labor was performed, while the debates exhibited a marked degree of ability. In framing the original Constitution of California, slavery was forever prohibited within the jurisdiction of the State; the boundary question between Mexico and the United States was set at rest; provision for the morals and education of the people was made; a seal of State was adopted with the false Greek, though now more famous motto of *Eureka*, and a quantity of other matters discussed. It was submitted to the people in English and Spanish; and on November 13th, was ratified by them.

The Constitution was adopted by a vote of twelve thousand and sixty-four for it, to eight hundred and eleven against it; there being, besides, over twelve hundred ballots that were treated as blanks, because of an informality in the printing.

The following are two of the tickets which were voted at the time and were distributed in and around Sacramento and the upper portion of the State.

PEOPLE'S TICKET.

FOR THE CONSTITUTION.

FOR GOVERNOR,  
John A. Sutter.

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,  
John McDougal.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS,  
William E. Shannon,  
Pet. Halsted.

FOR STATE SENATORS,  
John Bidwell, Upper Sacramento,  
Murray Morrison, Sacramento City,  
Harding Bigelow, Sacramento City,  
Gilbert A. Grant, Vernon.

FOR ASSEMBLY,  
H. C. Cardwell, Sacramento City,  
P. B. Cornwall, Sacramento City,  
John S. Fowler, Sacramento City,  
J. Sherwood,  
Elisha W. McKinstry,  
Madison Walthall, Coloma,  
W. B. Dickenson, Yuba,  
James Queen, South Fork,  
W. L. Jenkin, Weaverville.

PEOPLE'S TICKET.

FOR THE CONSTITUTION.

FOR GOVERNOR,  
Peter H. Burnett.

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,  
John McDougal.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS,  
Edward Gilbert,  
George W. Wright.

FOR STATE SENATORS,  
John Bidwell, Upper Sacramento,  
Murray Morrison, Sacramento City,  
Harding Bigelow, Sacramento City,  
Gilbert A. Grant, Vernon.

FOR ASSEMBLY,  
H. C. Cardwell, Sacramento City,  
P. B. Cornwall, Sacramento City,  
John S. Fowler, Sacramento City,  
H. L. Ford, Upper Sacramento,  
Madison Walthall, Coloma,  
W. B. Dickenson, Yuba,  
James Queen, South Fork,  
Arba K. Berry, Weaverville.



The result of the election was: Peter H. Burnett, Governor; John McDougal, Lieutenant Governor; and Messrs. Wright and Gilbert were sent to Congress. In regard to our especial subject General Vallejo was then elected to the Senate, his seat, however, was first given to Jonas Spect, but on the 22d of December the official return from one of the polls gave Spect but two votes instead of twenty-eight, a total of but one hundred and eighty-one votes against General Vallejo's one hundred and ninety-nine. Mr. Spect then gave up his seat to the General, who during that session of the Legislature, made his memorable report on the derivation and defination of the names of the several counties of the State; a report unsurpassed in its style and its store of interesting and valuable information.

On Saturday, December 15, 1849, the first Legislature of the State met—it will, however, be unnecessary here to enter into its movements until finally located at Sacramento, such will be found fully discussed in the history of the city of Vallejo.

The earliest record of an election in Solano is one held on April 1, 1850, to chose the following State and county officers, viz.: Clerk of the Supreme Court, District Attorney, County Judge, Clerk, Attorney, Surveyor, Sheriff, Recorder, Assessor, Coronor, and Treasurer. L. B. Mizner being appointed Inspector; William McDaniel and Sarshel Cooper, Judges; with Joseph Winston and W. Rowe, Clerks. The officers being duly sworn by Stephen Cooper, Judge of the District of Sonoma, the polls were opened, and one hundred and seventy-six duly qualified electors deposited their ballots.

The result of the election was:

	Votes.
For Clerk of Supreme Court.....E. H. Tharp.....	142
For District Attorney.....R. A. Maupin.....	107
For County Judge.....James Craig.....	88
For County Clerk.....Sarshel Bynum.....	107
For County Attorney.....D. R. Wright.....	94
For County Surveyor.....Benjamin W. Barlow..	137
For County Sheriff.....Frank Brown.....	86
For County Recorder.....Sarshel Bynum.....	143
For County Assessor.....Stephen Cooper.....	174
For County Coroner.....W. F. Peabody.....	178
For County Treasurer.....David F. Beveridge.....	100

The foregoing poll included the votes of officers and soldiers of the United States Army, and the officers and sailors of the Navy, to the number of forty-three, as is shown by the statement submitted by the President and Canvasser, on April 8th. The election was held pursuant to an Act of the Assembly of the State, approved March 2d, 1850.

It was found, however, that James Craig, the nominee for the County Judgeship, had failed to qualify according to law; the office was therefore declared vacant, and a new election called in accordance with the above quoted Act, by F. M. Warmcastle, Judge of Contra Costa County, to be held on May 11, 1850, at two precincts in Solano County, which he had named, viz., the Court House at Benicia, and the residence of Daniel M. Berry, in Suisun Valley, the Inspectors being respectively George H. Riddell, of Benicia, and D. M. Berry. The result was the election of Joseph Winston, with sixty-six votes, as against forty-seven for William McDaniel. Thus, Judge Winston was the first Judge for Solano County who actually took his seat; and on the assumption of his office, almost his first duty was the organizing of the county into the two townships of Benicia and Suisun, and fixing certain boundaries, consequent on the necessity to elect two Justices of the Peace and one Constable for the newly partitioned districts. This election was called for May 25th, and on June 1st the elected Justices were directed to meet at the City Hall, in Benicia, for the purpose of electing two of their number as Associate Justices, to sit with the County Judge, to form the Court of Sessions of said County of Solano. There is, unfortunately, no record of the names of the Justices then elected. In the meantime, the office of County Attorney was declared vacant, and C. Gillis, being the only candidate, was duly elected July 22, 1850. On October 7, 1850, another election was held for the appointment of a Clerk to the Supreme Court; Superintendent of Public Instruction; Attorney General; District Attorney, for the district composed of the counties of Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano and Mendocino; Senator for the district composed of the counties of Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Mendocino, Yolo, Colusa, and Trinity; and a Member of the Assembly, for the District composed of the counties of Marin, Sonoma, Napa, and Solano, while the votes of the people were called to settle the location of the seat of government, with the following result:

	Votes.
For Clerk of the Supreme Court.....E. H. Tharp.....	96
For Superintendent of Public Instruction..Fred. P. Tracy.....	56
For Attorney General.....James A. McDougal...	98
For District Attorney.....J. D. Bristol.....	132
For Senator.....Martin E. Cook.....	101
For Member of Assembly.....John S. Bradford.....	113

While, for the location of the seat of government, Vallejo received one hundred and eighty-six votes, as against one for each of the cities of San Jose and Monterey. Shortly after this, the offices of Sheriff and County Surveyor, held by Messrs. Francis Brown and Benjamin W. Barlow, had become vacant; another election was held on December 21st, when B. C. Whitman was chosen for the first named office, and A. F. Bradley for the latter.

Thus the electoral interests for the year 1850 were brought to a close. In this year party spirit had not yet run very high. The bulk of the early settlers were pretty evenly divided between the Whigs and Democrats, while of the officers elected, the opposing factions shared the honors more or less equally.

On January 25, 1851, Calvin Brown and J. G. Dennis were respectively elected to the offices of Justice of the Peace and Constable for Benicia Township, while, in March, two more vacancies occurred in the offices of Sheriff and County Attorney, consequent on the resignation of Messrs. B. C. Whitman and C. Gillis. To fill these offices a special election was called, as also to choose two Justices of the Peace and one Constable for each of the townships of Vallejo, which would appear from the Petition of Electors to have then been named Eden and Suisun. At this epoch of the county's history, the list of votes was: For Benicia Township, 174; for Vallejo, 29; and for Suisun, 72. The result of this election, which was held on March 24th, was:

	Votes.
For County Sheriff.....Paul Shirley.....	83
For County Attorney.....Thomas M. Swan..	128
For Justice of the Peace, Vallejo Township. }	
William Barnett... }	27
James Wyatt..... }	26
For Justice of the Peace, Suisun Township. }	
Daniel M. Berry... }	67
U. P. Degman..... }	63
For Constable for Vallejo Township....William E. Brown, D. C..	28
For Constable for Suisun Township....William Munn.....	69

On the 9th September, 1850, California was admitted into the Union, and the pleasing, though foreordained intelligence, was hailed with much enthusiasm when brought to San Francisco, on the 18th October, 1850. On September 3, 1851, the first gubernatorial election was held under the new order of things. The event being so important a one, we reproduce the entire vote throughout Solano County, as gleaned from the official records of the county.

FOR GOVERNOR.

READING, PIERSON B.

	No. of Votes.	Total.
Benicia.....	182	..
Vallejo.....	93	..
Suisun.....	67	..
Vacaville.....	51	..

393

BIGLER, JOHN.

Benicia.....	98	..
Vallejo.....	77	..
Suisun.....	41	..
Vacaville.....	17	..

233

LIEUT. GOVERNOR.

BALDWIN, DRURY P.

Benicia.....	166	..
Vallejo.....	91	..
Suisun.....	67	..
Vacaville.....	49	..

373

PURDY, SAMUEL.

Benicia.....	112	..
Vallejo.....	78	..
Suisun.....	41	..
Vacaville.....	17	..

248

JUSTICE SUPREME COURT.

HEYDENFELDT, SOLOMON.

Benicia.....	110	..
Vallejo.....	77	..
Suisun.....	43	..
Vacaville.....	17	..

247

ROBINSON, TODD.

Benicia.....	159	..
Vallejo.....	92	..
Suisun.....	65	..
Vacaville.....	50	..

366

ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

HASTINGS, S. C.

	No. of Votes.	Total.
Benicia.....	114	..
Vallejo.....	78	..
Suisun.....	44	..
Vacaville.....	16	..

252

FAIR, W. D.

Benicia.....	162	..
Vallejo.....	90	..
Suisun.....	64	..
Vacaville.....	50	..

366

STATE COMPTROLLER.

PIERCE, WINSLOW T.

Benicia.....	111	..
Vallejo.....	78	..
Suisun.....	42	..
Vacaville.....	17	..

248

ABELL, A. G.

Benicia.....	166	..
Vallejo.....	90	..
Suisun.....	64	..
Vacaville.....	49	..

369

HOUSTON, JOHN S.

Benicia.....	1	..
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1

SURVEYOR-GENERAL.

EDDY, WM. M.

Benicia.....	119	..
Vallejo.....	77	..
Suisun.....	41	..
Vacaville.....	17	..

254

HERRON, WALTER.

Benicia.....	159	..
Vallejo.....	89	..
Suisun.....	66	..
Vacaville.....	49	..

363



STATE TREASURER.

ROMAN, RICHARD.		
	No. of Votes.	Total.
Benicia .....	118	..
Vallejo .....	130	..
Suisun .....	43	..
Vacaville.....	27	..
	<hr/>	318

BURT, J. M.		
Benicia .....	159	..
Vallejo.....	38	..
Suisun.....	65	..
Vacaville .....	39	..
	<hr/>	301

GIFT, COL. W.		
Benicia.....	2	..
	<hr/>	2

CONGRESSMAN.

McCORKLE, JOS. W.		
Benicia.....	107	..
Vallejo .....	82	..
Suisun .....	42	..
Vacaville.....	19	..
	<hr/>	250

MARSHALL, E. C.		
Benicia.....	118	..
Vallejo.....	86	..
Suisun .....	43	..
Vacaville.....	27	..
	<hr/>	274

KEWEN, E. J. C.		
Benicia.....	170	..
Vallejo .....	87	..
Suisun .....	65	..
Vacaville.....	49	..
	<hr/>	371

MOORE, B. F.		
Benicia.....	157	..
Vallejo.....	88	..
Suisun .....	64	..
Vacaville.....	38	..
	<hr/>	347

BRYAN, D. C.		
Benicia.....	34	..
Vallejo.....	4	..
Suisun.....	18	..
Vacaville.....	7	..
	<hr/>	63

DORLAND, JAMES.

	No. of Votes.	Total.
Benicia.....	48	..
Vallejo.....	8	..
Suisun.....	47	..
Vacaville.....	..	..
	<hr/>	103

STATE SENATOR TO REPRESENT THE COUNTIES OF SOLANO AND NAPA.

BRADFORD, JOHN S.		
Benicia.....	157	..
Vallejo.....	9	..
Suisun .....	50	..
Vacaville.....	5	..
	<hr/>	221

ESTELL, JAMES M.		
Benicia.....	129	..
Vallejo .....	147	..
Suisun .....	52	..
Vacaville.....	46	..
	<hr/>	374

LONG, JAMES H.		
Vacaville.....	2	..
	<hr/>	2

SAWYER, JESSE.		
Benicia.....	1	..
Vacaville.....	1	..
	<hr/>	2

SEMPLE, ROBERT.		
Vacaville.....	1	..
	<hr/>	1

MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY TO REPRESENT SOLANO COUNTY.

GRAHAM, JAMES S.		
Benicia.....	122	..
Vallejo.....	117	..
Suisun.....	28	..
Vacaville.....	45	..
	<hr/>	312

SEMPLE, ROBERT.		
Benicia.....	85	..
Vallejo.....	28	..
Suisun.....	17	..
Vacaville.....	15	..
	<hr/>	145

COUNTY SHERIFF.

SHIRLEY, PAUL.

	No. of Votes.	Total.
Benicia.....	195	..
Vallejo.....	122	..
Suisun.....	84	..
Vacaville.....	62	..
	<hr/>	463

STOCKER, JAMES.

Benicia.....	91	..
Vallejo.....	38	..
Suisun.....	26	..
Vacaville.....	6	..
	<hr/>	161

COUNTY CLERK.

BYNUM, SARSHEL.

Benicia.....	259	..
Vallejo.....	148	..
Suisun.....	107	..
Vacaville.....	65	..
	<hr/>	579

JONES, J. W.

Benicia.....	1	..
	<hr/>	1

DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

SWAN, THOS. M.

Benicia.....	145	..
Vallejo.....	102	..
Suisun.....	65	..
Vacaville.....	43	..
	<hr/>	355

BLAIR, J. D.

Benicia.....	134	..
Vallejo.....	48	..
Suisun.....	35	..
Vacaville.....	14	..
	<hr/>	231

COUNTY CORONER.

PEABODY, WM. F.

Benicia.....	169	..
Vallejo.....	18	..
Suisun.....	57	..
Vacaville.....	45	..
	<hr/>	289

HAMM, SAMUEL F.

	No. of Votes.	Total.
Benicia.....	109	..
Vallejo.....	122	..
Suisun.....	41	..
Vacaville.....	14	..
	<hr/>	286

COUNTY TREASURER.

EVANS, O. H.

Benicia.....	194	..
Vallejo.....	77	..
Suisun.....	73	..
Vacaville.....	43	..
	<hr/>	387

HAYDEN, C. W.

Benicia.....	73	..
Vallejo.....	52	..
Suisun.....	21	..
Vacaville.....	14	..
	<hr/>	160

LEVISTON, GEO.

Benicia.....	1	..
	<hr/>	1

COUNTY SURVEYOR.

LORING, F. R.

Benicia.....	153	..
Vallejo.....	76	..
Suisun.....	67	..
Vacaville.....	43	..
	<hr/>	339

BRADLEY, A. F.

Benicia.....	124	..
Vallejo.....	56	..
Suisun.....	34	..
Vacaville.....	14	..
	<hr/>	228

COUNTY ASSESSOR.

VAUGHAN, SINGLETON.

Benicia.....	192	..
Vallejo.....	78	..
Suisun.....	47	..
Vacaville.....	33	..
	<hr/>	350

COUNTY ASSESSOR.

HOWELL, E. P.

	No. of Votes.	Total Votes.
Benicia .....	69	..
Vallejo .....	53	..
Suisun .....	54	..
Vacaville .....	25	..
	<hr/>	201

COOPER STEPHEN.

Benicia .....	16	..
Suisun .....	7	..
	<hr/>	23

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF SOL. CO.

CURREY, JOHN

Benicia .....	136	..
Vallejo .....	76	..
Suisun .....	71	..
Vacaville .....	43	..326

LEVISTON, GEO.

Benicia .....	135	..
Vallejo.....	51	..
Suisun.....	24	..
Vacaville.....	14	..
	<hr/>	224

LUCE, S. W.

Benicia .....	1	..
	<hr/>	1

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE FOR BENICIA.

Riddell, Alexander...	..	150
Wetmore, C. E.....	..	95
Gillis, Calvin.....	..	199
Hyam, B. D.....	..	62
McDougal, John.....	..	1
Lowry, Dick.....	..	1
Bennett, Bill.....	..	1

CONSTABLES FOR BENICIA.

Brown, A. W.....	..	188
Brown, Jno. S.....	..	169
Siddons, Wm.....	..	126
Mitchell, I.....	..	1
Jones, John W.....	..	1
Brown, W. C.....	..	1
Andrews, J. H.....	..	1

DISTRICT JUDGE 7TH JUDICIAL DIST.

Total Votes.

Hopkins, Robert.....	1
Boggs, T. J.....	1
Whitman, B. C.....	1
Lee, Harvey.....	1

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE FOR VALLEJO.

Hook, Henry.....	101
Tierney, E. P.....	36
Leslie, Lyman.....	77
Shiple, David.....	31
Veeder, Charles.....	13
Loveland, J. E.....	3

CONSTABLES FOR VALLEJO.

Brown, W. A.....	116
Bryant, W. T.....	87
Dupaix, Henry.....	13

JUSTICES OF PEACE, SUISUN.

BERRY, D. K.

Suisun .....	67	..
Vacaville .....	9	..
	<hr/>	76

DEGMAN, U. P.

Suisun .....	50	..
Vacaville .....	49	..
	<hr/>	99

BEVERIDGE, DAVID F.

Suisun .....	54	..
	<hr/>	54

CONSTABLES FOR SUISUN.

STEVENSON, G. B.

Suisun .....	62	..
Vacaville .....	50	..
	<hr/>	112

MUNN, WM.

Suisun .....	..	49
--------------	----	----

LINDSEY, WM.

Suisun .....	..	23
Scattering .....	..	6

On September 11th, notice was given in accordance with the Fourth Article of the Constitution of California, by Robert Semple, of his intention to contest the election of James S. Graham to the seat in the Assembly; there is no reason to believe, however, that the case ever came to a recount.

The division of votes showed a democratic preponderance for the State offices; while for those of the county, the Whig party had the majority of positions.

In this contest, Bigler, who received twenty-three thousand seven hundred and seventy-four votes in the State; while Pierson B. Reading, his Whig opponent, got twenty-two thousand seven hundred and thirty-three, had the assistance of that new power which had commenced to creep into the State, in the shape of the squatting element. He was Democratic in his manners, being "hale fellow" with all. Not so his opponent, who was a gentleman of more genteel bearing than the kind-hearted, unambitious, landless Governor, who was always mindful of his friends. Bigler, in all his messages, urged economy, but found it difficult to prevent an office being made for a friend. Tuthill remarks: "It was his pet project to unite the Southern and Western men of his party, and let the free-soilers shift for themselves; but it is not in that direction that party cleavage runs. The Southerners scorned the alliance. They were 'high-toned,' and looked down upon a Missourian as little better than a man from Massachusetts. The Governor's project would not work. He carried water on both shoulders, and spilt very little on either side."

In regard to the election of officers to fill the positions required in those years, it was very hard to find those willing to, or capable of, undertaking the arduous duties: besides, everyone was on the *qui vive* for news of gold, on the first receipt of which, judges and constables alike, would leave their more dignified duties, and make for the mines, caring not who their successors might be, or how they were appointed.

But few changes of any political moment occurred in 1852, save the establishment of a polling precinct at the Suscol rancho, at the residence of L. Curtis; and the Presidential election of November 2nd, when we find the three well-known names among the successful candidates for county honors, of Judge E. W. McKinstry, now of the Supreme Bench of California, then elected for his first term as Judge of the Seventh Judicial District; Andrew J. Bryant, the present Mayor of San Francisco, then a Constable of Benicia township; and Dr. Sylvester Woodbridge, Junior, the eloquent pastor of a Presbyterian Church, in San Francisco, at the time of which we write, a resident of Benicia, and the first Commissioner of Common Schools in the county.

On February 19th, of the following year, Sarshel Bynum, resigned his office, when Joseph P. Vaughn was appointed *interim* County Clerk, in which charge he was confirmed, at the general election of 7th September.



On May 18th, an Act, apportioning the State into certain Senatorial and Assembly districts, was passed; the "Tenth Senatorial District," being comprised in the counties of Solano, Napa, and Yolo, with power to elect one Senator, while one member of Assembly was to be returned from each.

It would appear that at this juncture the number of residents in the county had so increased, that greater facilities had to be given to the public for recording their votes. The distances from the principal locations of the townships being so great, new precincts were made; the city of Benicia being divided into two wards; the headquarters of one being at the Pacific Works, and the other at the Court House. The Vallejo township comprised Vallejo and Suscol. Wolfskill's and Montezuma belonged to Vacaville; while Suisun and Green Valley each had their polling places. At their December term, the Court of Sessions ordered that the salary of the District Attorney should be fixed at one hundred and twenty-five dollars per month, or fifteen hundred dollars *per annum*, commencing from the first Monday in October.

In the year 1855, a vacancy occurring in the office of County Treasurer, by the death of John C. Gulick, Jabez Hatch was appointed in his stead. In this year, too, the Court of Sessions was abolished, and a Board of Supervisors created in lieu thereof. The first Board consisting of Lloyd A. Rider, A. W. Rodgers, and John C. Fisk, met at Benicia on May 7th, under the Presidentship of the first-named gentleman, when they appointed George Leviston to be a Justice of the Peace, *vice* Alexander Riddell deceased.

On May 4, 1855, an Act of the Legislature was approved, "to take the sense of the People of the State, at the General Election in A. D. 1855, on the Passage of a Prohibitory Liquor Law;" the provisions of which were, that the manufacture and sale of all spirituous and intoxicating liquors, except for mechanical, chemical, medicinal and sacramental purposes, should be prohibited. On being put to the vote in Solano county, the result was:

Yes .....	143	votes.
No.....	378	"

The precincts for polling purposes were divided by the Supervisors in this year, to be as under:

Green Valley.....	1
Suisun .....	2
Vacaville .....	2
Montezuma .....	1
Tremont.....	1
Benicia.....	1
Vallejo .....	1

On November 13, J. W. Jones was appointed to the position of County

Coroner, *vice* Larkin Richardson, who had failed to file his certificate of election. On August 21, 1855, it was directed by the Board that the Supervisory districts be changed, as under :

DISTRICT No. 1.....	{	Benicia.
	{	Vallejo.
DISTRICT No. 2.....	{	Green Valley.
	{	Suisun.
DISTRICT No. 3.....	{	Vacaville.
	{	Montezuma.
	{	Tremont.

In the years 1856 and '57, nothing of any moment occurred in the county, in regard to its political aspect. In 1858 the removal of the county seat occurred, a full account of which will be found in the chapter on County Organizations, in this work. On January 22, 1859, the Board of Supervisors accepted the Bond of Captain Waterman, in respect to the handing over certain lands in Fairfield, for county purposes. On March 14th, they opened the bids for the erection of the Court House and Jail there, viz :

Larkin Richardson, for Court House and Jail.....	\$24,440
J. D. Perkins, for temporary Court House, etc.....	1,373

And on September 1st, the buildings were handed over by the contractors.

By an Act of the Legislature, approved April 28, 1857, the Supervisors of the county of Yuba were authorized to subscribe a sum of \$200,000 to a railroad company which should connect the city of Marysville, and either the city of Benicia or any point on the Sacramento River, at or near Knight's Ferry or Sacramento City. In May, of the same year, the Supervisors of Solano county proposed that \$250,000 worth of stock should be taken in the Sacramento and San Francisco Railroad, another company which had been started with warm advocates in Benicia. The newspapers of the time ardently urged the adoption of this scheme, and its submission to the vote of the people, which was afterwards done, and carried by a large majority. In a little while the Marysville company awoke to a sense of their danger in the opposition of the contemplated Sacramento road, when the former association filed their articles of incorporation forthwith, and commenced operations. The road is set forth as commencing at Marysville, and extending through Yuba, Sutter, Yolo, and Solano counties, to a point on the San Pablo Bay, near Vallejo, eighty-five miles in length, which was expected to cost \$3,000,000. The bill was duly introduced into the Senate, and approved. On April 16, 1859, an Act authorizing the county of Solano to subscribe \$200,000 to the capital stock of this railroad, was approved,

subject to the accepting thereof by the people, which was submitted to their vote at the general election of 1859, with the following result:

Yes .....	796
No .....	661

The Supervisors were empowered to issue bonds bearing interest at the rate of seven per cent *per annum* from date of issue, payable half-yearly. Only \$100,000 of these bonds were paid, however, to the company, who, not having fulfilled the contract under which the amount was subscribed, an amended Act was submitted to the Legislature, during the *regime* of Messrs. Mizner and J. B. Frisbie, as Senator and Assemblyman respectively, and approved March 26, 1868, by which the California Pacific Railroad Company, a new corporation which had been started and duly incorporated under the general laws of the State, were to have assigned and transferred to them all stock subscribed for the San Francisco and Marysville Railroad Company. This was not to be limited to the first named corporation, however, for section 14 of the Act directs: "The said Supervisors are hereby authorized and empowered to issue and deliver to the proper officers of *any* railroad company which may, within two years from the passage of this Act, complete and have in running order a railroad from the Straits of Carquinez, or Vallejo Bay, to the northern boundary line of said Solano county, the same amount of bonds as the said San Francisco and Marysville Railroad Company would have been entitled to, had its said road have been fully completed in the year 1861, less the amount already issued." Of the original stock there is still \$112,000 outstanding, which is being reduced at the rate of \$9,000 a year.

An Act, approved May 13, 1861, to separate from the office of County Clerk, the office of County Recorder took effect on the first Monday of October, and an election for the latter office was also ordered to be held at every succeeding general election. To the duties of Recorder were added those of Auditor. An Act was also approved on the 14th of May, in which it was provided that Road Masters be elected, so soon as the County shall have been divided into Road Districts, at the general election of Sept. 4th, whose duties were "to have the care and general supervision of the public roads within the district, to maintain them in as good repair and to erect such necessary bridges and culverts as the means at his command will permit; and he shall also, by direction of the Supervisors, cause suitable guide-boards to be erected at the intersection of important roads. He shall oversee and direct the labor expended upon the roads, and see that teams, ploughs, scrapers and other implements, are furnished for the road service. He shall, between the first day of October and the first day of June, in each year, give to each person in his road district, who is liable to pay road tax, at least three days notice of the time and place at which such person shall appear for the purpose of working on the public roads," etc.

In February, 1867, the county was divided into assessment districts conforming to those which elected Supervisors, offices which were afterwards discontinued as being unwieldy.

Nothing of any particular importance to affect the county occurred in the few following years until 1871—the year of the Tapeworm ticket; the following history of which has been kindly supplied by Mr. George A. Gillespie.

#### FAC-SIMILE OF THE TICKET.

**Republican State Ticket.**—For Governor, Newton Booth. For Lieutenant Governor, Romualdo Pacheco. For Secretary of State, Drury Melone. For Controller, James J. Green. For State Treasurer, Ferdinand Baehr. For Surveyor-General, Robert Gardner. For Attorney-General, John L. Love. For Clerk of the Supreme Court, Grant I. Taggart. For State Printer, Thomas A. Springer. For Harbor Commissioner, John A. McGlynn. For Amend. to Art. I of the Const.—Yes. Refund Debt.—No. For Congressman—Third District, John M. Coghlan. For Assemblyman, M. J. Wright. For Sheriff, Joseph Jacobs. For Treasurer, E. D. Perkins. For Recorder, Geo. C. McKinley. For Clerk, Chas. A. Kidder. For District Attorney, J. F. Wendell. For Assessor, Joseph Hoyt. For Surveyor, Wm. W. Fitch. For Supt. of Schools, Wm. H. Fry. For Pub. Administrator, Hazen Hoyt. For Coroner, C. E. Holbrook. For Supervisor, 1st Dist., A. D. Starr. For Constables, Ed. Longan and W. Markey. For Roadmaster, A. E. Thurber.

The so called "Tape-worm Ticket," the use of which at Vallejo, at the election of 1871, caused so much comment and adverse criticism, both in and without the State, and even in the United States Congress, had its origin in this wise: The Navy Yard, at Mare Island, after the election of Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency, passed into the control of the Republican party, and, especially during the war, a very large number of mechanics and laborers were given employment there. These men, or a large majority of them, prior to each general election, became enrolled members of Republican clubs, and were to all appearances, supporters of the Republican administrations, but it was found at the counting of ballots at each election there were an uncomfortably large number of Democratic votes in the ballot boxes. To remedy this, various kinds of "non-imitative" and "non-scratchable" ballots were devised, both printed and engraved, but in every case the Democrats, by the use of tissue-paper "pasters," and other devices circumvented the vigilance and craft of the administration politicians and managed to have a large number of Democratic votes put into the ballot boxes by these professed Republicans. At a meeting of the Republican County Central Committee of Solano in August, 1871, after it had made arrangements to supply all the precincts of the county with a sufficient quantity of Republican ballots—save Vallejo, the members from that section announced to the committee that it would be necessary to have a new and different style of ballot for that precinct in order to prevent imitation, pasting and scratching. After some deliberation the matter was left to a sub-committee of two persons, with orders to have printed three thousand ballots of a design which it should adopt. This sub-committee subsequently went to San Francisco, and applied to the printing stationers, William B. Cooke & Co., to have the proposed ballots printed. They were not decided as to the plan or style of the ballots needed, so Mr. Cooke suggested to them that he would have several different designs prepared by his foreman-printer during the day, and if they would call on the following



morning they could make their selection as to which they would order. Four or five designs were prepared, and among the lot was this "tape-worm ticket," which in the judgment of the committee seemed specially designed "to fill the bill," and it was selected by them and an order given to print the required three thousand. These ballots were sent to Vallejo, and on the night previous to the day of election they were parcelled out to the Navy Yard foremen, who in turn reparcelled them out to their workmen, and they were very extensively voted during the day, carrying the precinct largely for the Republican party. But even with all the intricacy of its design and make up, one hundred and twenty-eight of these ballots were scratched and pasted by Democratic voters. Hundreds of these ballots were preserved by the curious as mementoes of political intimidation, and one of them in the hands of Senator Casserly, found its way to the United States Senate where it was exhibited to the gaze of astonished Senators as the acme of "bull-dozing" acumen. This episode in Solano's political history, disgraceful as such proceedings were claimed to be, was not without a beneficial result, for beyond a doubt, to this *tape-worm* ticket and its use are we indebted for our present wise, and satisfactory uniform ballot law.

On May 7, 1873, the offices of Recorder and Auditor were consolidated, by direction of the Board of Supervisors, whose numbers were in this year increased from three to five, while the new office of Commissioner of Highways was created; but after one term it was abrogated, the duties of the office lapsing into the hands of road-masters, as before. At the Judicial Election, held on October 15th, the votes for County Judge resulted in a tie, as under:

O. B. Powers receiving 1,241 votes; John M. Gregory, Jr., receiving a like number. A new election was therefore called for December 16th, when Judge Gregory received 1,286 votes, as against 1,212, obtained by Mr. Powers.

An Act to permit the voters of every township or incorporated city in the State to vote on the question of granting licences to sell intoxicating liquors was approved by the Legislature, March 18, 1874. It was familiarly known as the "Local Option Law," and was put to the voters of Solano County on May 30th of that year, showing:

For liquor license . . . . .	1,022
For no liquor license . . . . .	904
	—
Majority of . . . . .	118 for license.

The office of Auditor was established and made separate from that of Recorder by Act of the Legislature, approved March 30th, T. P. Hooper being the first incumbent of the former office. The same Act also provided that the County Treasurer should be *ex officio* Tax Collector, thus

abolishing that office, while the offices of Public Administrator and County Coroner were united and consolidated on May 11th, 1875.

We now come to the last great event in the political history of Solano county, namely, the order for a new Constitution of the State, and its ultimate passage by an immense majority, that in Solano being two hundred and ninety-three.

It was found that the provisions in regard to taxation and property were of too vague a nature to be allowed to hold at this period of progress. At the time when the old Constitution was framed in Monterey, it was never contemplated that the State would be ever anything but a purely mining country; and as each mining section had its own local laws, more distinct terms in regard to what was legally meant by property and taxable property, were not thought to be necessary. At last the day came when a decision of the Supreme Court ruled that credits are not property in the sense in which the word property is used in Section 13 of Article XI of the Constitution, and cannot be assessed for taxes, or taxed as property, even if secured by mortgage. (*The People vs. Hibernia Bank*, Cal. Reports, 51.)

The popular voice became clamorous on this decision for a change of rule; and though having been before mooted, and successfully balked by former sessions of the Legislature, an Act to provide for a Convention to frame a new Constitution for the State of California was approved on March 30, 1878; and by a Proclamation of the Governor an election throughout the county of Solano was ordered to be held on June 19, 1878, for the purpose of electing delegates to a Constitutional Convention, to meet at Sacramento, on September 28th. Thirty-two delegates were to be elected by the State at large, of whom not more than eight should be residents of any one Congressional District. One delegate was allowed for the counties of Solano and Yolo, jointly, and three for Solano county alone. The result was:

DELEGATE for Solano and Yolo counties, jointly:

C. F. Reed (of Yolo).....741 votes.

For Solano county:

Joel A. Harvey.....859 votes.

J. M. Dudley.....821 "

S. G. Hilborn.....769 "

The election for the adoption or rejection caused a deep seated feeling throughout the entire State, and for months the county was in a perfect ferment; at last the 7th of May arrived; the following morning the news was flashed throughout the length and breadth of the land of the adoption of California's new organic law; and now nothing but Time can solve the riddle as to whether the decision was a wise one or not.

Table showing the State, County and Township Officers from the year 1850 to 1879 inclusive, with Notes, giving Movements and Appointments between each General Election.

Name of Office.	1850.		1851.		1852		1853.	
	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.
Senators.	Martin E. Cook.	Oct. 7	James M. Estell.	Sept. 3	James M. Estell.	Nov. 2	Edward McGarry.	Sept. 7
Assemblymen.	John S. Bradford	"	James S. Graham	"	James S. Graham	"	B. C. Whitman.	"
District Judge.			Robert Hopkins.	"	E. W. McKinstry.	"	E. W. McKinstry.	"
County Judge.	Joseph Winston.	May 11	Joseph Winston.	"	Joseph Winston.	"	Thomas M. Swan.	"
County Clerk.	Sarschel Bynum.	April 1	Sarschel Bynum.	"	Sarschel Bynum.	"	Joseph P. Vaughn.	"
County Treasurer.	David F. Beveridge.	"	O. H. Evans.	"	Samuel C. Gray.	"	John C. Gulick.	"
County Surveyor.	A. F. Bradley.	Dec. 21	F. W. Loring.	"	F. W. Loring.	"	Hans Patton.	"
County Assessor.	Stephen Cooper.	April 1	Singleton Vaughn.	"	Singleton Vaughn.	"	Henry B. Ammons.	"
County Recorder.	Sarschel Bynum.	"	Sarschel Bynum.	"	Sarschel Bynum.	"	Joseph P. Vaughn.	"
County Auditor.	B. C. Whitman.	Dec. 21	Paul Shirley.	"	Paul Shirley.	"	Paul Shirley.	"
County Supc. of Schools.	W. F. Peabody.	April 1	William F. Peabody.	"	William F. Peabody.	"	William F. Peabody.	"
County Coroner.			John Currey.	"	John Currey.	"	Alexander Riddell.	"
Public Administrator.				"		"		"
County Tax Collector.				"		"		"
Commissioner of Highways.				"		"		"
District Attorney.				"		"		"
Supervisors.	C. Gillis.	July 22	Thomas M. Swan.	"	Thomas M. Swan.	"	Lyman Leslie.	"
Justices of the Peace.	L. E. Mizner, Benicia.	May 25	Calvin Gillis, Benicia.	"	Edward S. Stetson, Benicia.	"	E. H. Von Pfister, Benicia.	"
	E. H. Von Pfister, Benicia.	"	Alex'r Riddell.	"	Charles W. Hayden.	"	William S. Wells.	"
		"	Lyman Leslie, Vallejo.	"	Henry Hook.	"	Henry Hook, Vallejo.	"
		"	U. P. Degman, Suisun.	"	Henry Hook.	"	James Tuttle.	"
		"	D. K. Berry.	"	David K. Berry, Suisun.	"	J. W. Owens, Suisun.	"
		"		"	U. P. Degman.	"	B. H. Brown.	"
		"		"	William A. Dunn, Vacaville.	"	J. W. Sweeney, Vacaville.	"
		"		"	Albert H. Hoyt.	"	J. Whitcraft.	"
		"		"		"	C. P. Lowmes, Green Valley.	"
		"		"		"	James Hall.	"
		"		"		"	W. S. Brant, Benicia.	"
		"		"		"	Andrew J. Bryant.	"
		"		"		"	James Brown, Vallejo.	"
		"		"		"	H. D. Kimball.	"
		"		"		"	Sampon Smith, Suisun.	"
		"		"		"	Alex. Blake.	"
		"		"		"	J. M. D. Watfield, Vacaville.	"
		"		"		"	George Dale, Vacaville.	"
		"		"		"	Curtis Wilson, Green Valley.	"
		"		"		"	Sylvester Woodbridge, Jr., Ba	"
		"		"		"	James Barry, Benicia.	"
		"		"		"	T. P. Madden.	"
		"		"		"	James Hill, Vallejo.	"
		"		"		"	L. Curtis.	"
		"		"		"	Robert Brownlee, Vallejo	"
		"		"		"	T. H. Owen, Suisun.	"
		"		"		"	R. Barlow.	"
		"		"		"	A. Cramer.	"
		"		"		"	Chas. Ramsay, Green Valley.	"
		"		"		"	J. Hill, Green Valley.	"
		"		"		"	J. M. Lemon, Green Valley.	"
		"		"		"	William A. Dunn, Vacaville.	"
		"		"		"	W. G. Fore.	"
		"		"		"	J. C. Fisk.	"
Commissioners of Common Schools.	William Guile, Benicia.	"	A. W. Brown, Benicia.	"	John Walsh, Benicia.	"	Sylvester Woodbridge, Jr., Ben	"
	Daniel K. Berry, Suisun.	"	W. A. Brown, Vallejo.	"	T. P. Madden.	"	J. Wyatt, Vallejo.	"
		"	G. E. Stevenson, Suisun.	"	James Burney, Vallejo.	"	James Miller.	"
		"		"	Henry Switzer, Suisun.	"	Daniel M. Berry.	"
		"		"	W. P. Durbin.	"	William A. Dunn, Vacaville.	"
		"		"	William G. Fore.	"	William G. Fore.	"
		"		"	William McDaniel.	"	William McDaniel.	"



Table showing the State, County and Township Officers from the year 1850 to 1879 inclusive, with Notes, giving Movements and Appointments between each General Election—continued.

Name of Office.	1854.		1855.		1856.		1857.		1858.	
	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.
Senators	Edward McGarry.....	Sept. 6	S. Bynum.....	Sept. 5	S. Bynum.....		H. Griffith.....		H. Griffith.....	
Assemblymen	John Doughty.....	"	Andrew M. Stevenson.....	"	Andrew M. Stevenson.....		N. H. Davis.....	Sept. 4	Nathan Cutler.....	Sept. 1
District Judge	E. W. McKinstry.....	"	E. W. McKinstry.....	"	E. W. McKinstry.....		E. W. McKinstry.....	"	E. W. McKinstry.....	"
County Judge	Thomas M. Swan.....	"	Thomas M. Swan.....	"	Thomas M. Swan.....		George Leviston.....	"	George Leviston.....	"
County Clerk	Joseph P. Vaughn.....	"	William J. Hooton.....	"	William J. Hooton.....		William J. Hooton.....	"	William J. Hooton.....	"
County Treasurer	John C. Galtick.....	"	R. M. Holliday.....	"	R. M. Holliday.....		Anthony Hubbs.....	"	Anthony Hubbs.....	"
County Surveyor	Hans Patton.....	"	David Wade.....	"	David Wade.....		E. A. De Hemeccourt.....	"	E. A. De Hemeccourt.....	"
County Assessor	Honry B. Ammons.....	"	I. S. Jamison.....	"	I. S. Jamison.....		B. H. Brown.....	"	B. H. Brown.....	"
County Recorder	Joseph P. Vaughn.....	"	William J. Hooton.....	"	William J. Hooton.....		William J. Hooton.....	"	William J. Hooton.....	"
County Auditor	Paul Shirley.....	"	Paul Shirley.....	"	Paul Shirley.....		E. F. Osborne.....	"	E. F. Osborne.....	"
County Superintendent of Schools	Paul Shirley.....	"	J. W. Anderson.....	"	J. W. Anderson.....		H. M. Lillie.....	"	Sylvester Woodbridge, Jr.....	"
County Coroner	William F. Peabody.....	"	Larkin Richardson.....	"	W. W. Chapman.....	Nov. 4	W. W. Chapman.....	"	W. W. Chapman.....	"
Public Administrator	J. W. Sanborn.....	"	J. W. Sanborn.....	"	John S. Miller.....	"	J. G. Gardner.....	"	C. A. Cellars.....	"
County Tax Collector		"		"		"		"		"
Commissioner of Highways		"		"		"		"		"
District Attorney	Lyman Leslie.....	"	P. Coulston.....	"	P. Coulston.....	"	James H. Thompson.....	"	James H. Thompson.....	"
Supervisors		"	Luther Wright, District No. 1.....	"	George Leviston, District No. 1.....	"	Joseph L. Likhis, District No. 1.....	"	Jordan G. Gardner, District No. 1.....	"
		"	Charles Ramsey, District No. 2.....	"	Sibley, Clark, District No. 2.....	"	Samson Smith, District No. 2.....	"	D. B. Holman, District No. 2.....	"
		"	S. K. Nurse, District No. 3.....	"	Richardson Long, District No. 3.....	"	Jedediah Williams, District No. 3.....	"	E. F. Gillespie, District No. 3.....	"
Justices of the Peace	John Barry, Benicia.....	"	George Leviston, Ben'ia No. 1.....	May 8	George H. Riddell, Ben'ia No. 1.....	"	George H. Riddell, Ben'ia No. 1.....	"	George H. Riddell, Ben'ia No. 1.....	"
	Alexy Riddell, ".....	"	George H. Wyatt, ".....	Sept. 6	J. W. Sanborn, ".....	"	C. Hayden, Benicia, ".....	"	James W. Kinloch, ".....	"
	Eleanor Frisbie, Vallejo.....	"	Henry Hook, ".....	"	W. Ashenall, Vallejo.....	"	Henry Hook, Vallejo.....	"	Henry Hook, Vallejo.....	"
	Edward H. Rowe, ".....	"	Curtis Wilson, Green Valley.....	"	William Taylor, Green Valley.....	"	A. M. Currier, ".....	"	S. Roney, Vallejo.....	"
	C. P. Lownes, ".....	"	T. J. Duerson, Green Valley.....	"	D. B. Holman, Green Valley.....	"	Curtis Wilson, Green Valley.....	"	James M. Lemon, Green Valley.....	"
	A. B. Meacham, Suisun.....	"	E. Knapp, Suisun.....	"	A. B. Meacham, Suisun.....	"	David J. Clayton, Suisun.....	"	Curtis Wilson, Green Valley.....	"
	Ben'ia H. Brown, ".....	"	A. B. Meacham, Suisun.....	"	A. F. Hammond, ".....	"	John Doughty, Suisun.....	"	J. G. Lawton, Suisun.....	"
	Elias Anderson, Vacaville.....	"	M. Tillery, Vacaville.....	"	Merit Tillery, Vacaville.....	"	John Doughty, Suisun.....	"	G. R. Miner, ".....	"
	J. B. Green, ".....	"	H. B. Rice, ".....	"	Robert Haizer, ".....	"	Milton Wasson, Vacaville.....	"	Sarschel Bynum, Vacaville.....	"
	J. B. Coskey, Montezuma.....	"	D. K. Berry, Montezuma.....	"	R. S. Phelps, Tremont.....	"	Thomas Dowell, Montezuma.....	"	Merit Tillery, ".....	"
	D. K. Berry, ".....	"	Moses Hopkins, ".....	"	Levi Wise, Tremont.....	"	Thomas Dowell, Montezuma.....	"	J. B. Tufts, Tremont.....	"
		"	J. B. Tufts, Tremont.....	"	D. K. Berry, Montezuma.....	"	Thomas Dowell, Montezuma.....	"	D. Cooley, ".....	"
		"	T. J. Gregory, Tremont.....	"	A. P. Corneli, ".....	"	Thomas Dowell, Montezuma.....	"	Mason P. Caswell, Mont'ia.....	"
		"		"		"	Thomas Dowell, Montezuma.....	"	Wm. F. Shephard, ".....	"



Constables	Sept. 6	Sept. 6	Sept. 6	Sept. 4	Sept. 4	Sept. 1
George L. Bradley, Ben'a	Frederick Hector, Ben'a	B. B. Stone, Benicia	Luke Bond, Benicia	H. Norton, Benicia	H. Norton, Benicia	H. Norton, Benicia
John S. Brown, Benicia	J. S. Brown, Benicia	H. S. Vaughn, Vallejo	H. S. Vaughn, Vallejo	H. S. Vaughn, Vallejo	Sammel Baker, Benicia	Sammel Baker, Benicia
Thomas Brownlee, Vallejo	William Connolly, Vallejo	John Dawson, Green Valley	William Ackerman, Vallejo	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John Dawson, Vallejo	John Dawson, Vallejo
L. W. Forbes, Vallejo	J. W. Newbert, Vallejo	Charles Miner, Green Valley	James M. Ducaan, Vallejo	William Palmer, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
Curtis Wilson, Green Valley	T. M. Maupin, Suisun	T. M. Maupin, Suisun	James Ducean, Vallejo	James M. Ducaan, Vallejo	H. Kincaid, Green Valley	H. Kincaid, Green Valley
James H. Combs, Green Valley	Charles Peabody, Suisun	J. D. Glenn, Vacaville	Charles Miner, Green Valley	William Palmer, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
Sampson Smith, Suisun	J. D. Glenn, Vacaville	T. J. Duffield, Vallejo	T. M. Maupin, Suisun	James M. Ducaan, Vallejo	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
H. B. Jewett, Vallejo	T. J. Duffield, Vallejo	S. K. Nurse, Montezuma	J. M. Maupin, Suisun	James M. Ducaan, Vallejo	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
S. B. Coffee, Vacaville	S. K. Nurse, Montezuma	R. Rodgers, Vallejo	T. J. Duffield, Vallejo	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
T. P. Long, Vallejo	R. Rodgers, Vallejo	A. Bilman, Montezuma	J. Wykoff, Vallejo	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
A. Bilman, Montezuma	A. Bilman, Montezuma	C. P. Clark, Vallejo	J. Wykoff, Vallejo	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
C. P. Clark, Vallejo	C. P. Clark, Vallejo	James Barry, Benicia	James Ashbury, Tremont	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
James Barry, Benicia	James Barry, Benicia	D. N. Hastings, Vallejo	W. A. Simmonds, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
D. N. Hastings, Vallejo	D. N. Hastings, Vallejo	B. N. Osborne, Vallejo	J. D. Tilley, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
B. N. Osborne, Vallejo	B. N. Osborne, Vallejo	D. N. Darlington, Vallejo	J. D. Tilley, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
D. N. Darlington, Vallejo	D. N. Darlington, Vallejo	Win. A. Herman, Vallejo	J. D. Tilley, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
Win. A. Herman, Vallejo	Win. A. Herman, Vallejo	Robert Browlee, Vallejo	J. D. Tilley, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
Robert Browlee, Vallejo	Robert Browlee, Vallejo	R. M. Cochran, Green Valley	J. D. Tilley, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
R. M. Cochran, Green Valley	R. M. Cochran, Green Valley	James Hill, Green Valley	J. D. Tilley, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
James Hill, Green Valley	James Hill, Green Valley	A. O. Lamotte, Vallejo	J. D. Tilley, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
A. O. Lamotte, Vallejo	A. O. Lamotte, Vallejo	T. H. Owens, Suisun	J. D. Tilley, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
T. H. Owens, Suisun	T. H. Owens, Suisun	P. O. Clayton, Suisun	J. D. Tilley, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
P. O. Clayton, Suisun	P. O. Clayton, Suisun	P. Palmer, Vallejo	J. D. Tilley, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
P. Palmer, Vallejo	P. Palmer, Vallejo	R. B. Ellis, Vacaville	J. D. Tilley, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
R. B. Ellis, Vacaville	R. B. Ellis, Vacaville	William A. Dunn, Vacaville	J. D. Tilley, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
William A. Dunn, Vacaville	William A. Dunn, Vacaville	John C. Fisk, Vacaville	J. D. Tilley, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
John C. Fisk, Vacaville	John C. Fisk, Vacaville	James M. Parker, Montezuma	J. D. Tilley, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
James M. Parker, Montezuma	James M. Parker, Montezuma	T. Dowall, Montezuma	J. D. Tilley, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
T. Dowall, Montezuma	T. Dowall, Montezuma	P. Arnold, Vallejo	J. D. Tilley, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley
P. Arnold, Vallejo	P. Arnold, Vallejo		J. D. Tilley, Montezuma	Thomas P. Long, Vacaville	John M. Loane, Green Valley	John M. Loane, Green Valley

NOTES.—1854 :  
 Jabez Hatch to be County Treasurer vice Gulick, deceased.

NOTES.—1855 :  
 May 7, 1855.—The first Board of Supervisors appointed consisted of Lloyd A. Rider, A. W. Rodgers, and John C. Fisk.  
 Nov. 13, 1855.—J. W. Jones to be County Coroner vice Richardson, who failed to qualify.

NOTES.—1856-57 :  
 Jan. 13, 1857.—R. P. Blain to be County Treasurer vice Holliday, resigned.

NOTES.—1858-59 :  
 May 17, 1859.—John T. Peabody to be County Surveyor vice De Hennecourt, non-resident in the county.

Commissioners of Common Schools

Table showing the State, County and Township Officers from the year 1850 to 1879 inclusive, with Notes, giving Movements and Appointments between each General Election—continued.

Name of Office.	1859.		1860.		1861.		1862.		1863.	
	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.
Senators	H. Edgerton	Sept. 7	H. Edgerton	Sept. 4	O. B. Powers	Sept. 4	O. B. Powers	Sept. 4	John T. Hall	Sept. 2
Assemblymen	Thomas M. Swan	"	D. B. Holman	Nov. 6	J. M. Dudley	"	J. M. Dudley	"	M. Watson	"
District Judge	E. W. McKinstry	"	E. W. McKinstry	"	E. W. McKinstry	"	E. W. McKinstry	"	J. R. Southard	Oct. 21
County Judge	George Levison	"	George Levison	"	W. K. Weston	"	W. K. Weston	"	W. K. Weston	"
County Clerk	Perry Williams	"	Perry Williams	"	H. B. Shelton	"	H. B. Shelton	"	H. B. Shelton	"
County Treasurer	Anthony Hubbs	"	Anthony Hubbs	"	S. C. Gray	"	S. C. Gray	"	John Farrell	Sept. 22
County Surveyor	John T. Peabody	"	John T. Peabody	"	John T. Peabody	"	John T. Peabody	"	John Woodlaver	"
County Assessor	E. H. Von Pfister	"	E. H. Von Pfister	"	Cyrus Ayer	"	Cyrus Ayer	"	R. W. Parker	"
County Recorder	Perry Williams	"	Perry Williams	"	W. K. Solts	"	W. K. Solts	"	George H. Riddell	"
County Auditor	John M. Neville	"	John M. Neville	"	John M. Neville	"	John M. Neville	"	E. F. Gillespie	"
County Sheriff	Sylvester Woodbridge, Jr.	"	Sylvester Woodbridge, Jr.	"	J. W. Hines	"	J. W. Hines	"	George W. Simonton	"
County Superintendent of Schools	P. A. Wood	"	P. A. Wood	"	T. C. Everts	"	T. C. Everts	Sept. 3	A. F. Knorp	"
County Coroner	F. J. Bartlett	"	F. J. Bartlett	"	Joseph Hewett	"	Joseph Hewett	"		"
Public Administrator		"		"		"		"		"
County Tax Collector		"		"		"		"		"
Commissioner of Highways		"		"		"		"		"
District Attorney	William Ewing	"	William Ewing	"	J. C. Hinckley	"	J. C. Hinckley	"	John Doughty	"
Supervisors	John J. Barry, District No. 1	"	John J. Barry, District No. 1	"	John J. Barry, District No. 1	"	John J. Barry, District No. 1	"	Eben Hilton, District No. 1	"
	D. B. Holman, District No. 2	"	D. B. Holman, District No. 2	"	Sampson Smith, District No. 2	"	Sampson Smith, District No. 2	"	Sampson Smith, District No. 2	"
	E. F. Gillespie, District No. 3	"	E. F. Gillespie, District No. 3	"	W. B. Davis, District No. 3	"	W. B. Davis, District No. 3	"	W. B. Davis, District No. 3	"
Justices of the Peace	Henry Hook, Vallejo	"	Henry Hook, Vallejo	"	H. H. Dwyer, Vallejo	"	C. W. Riley, Vallejo	"	C. W. Riley, Vallejo	Oct. 21
	Hugh P. Wood, Vallejo	"	Hugh P. Wood, Vallejo	"	Henry Hook	"	Thomas Green, Vallejo	"	W. W. Chapman, Vallejo	"
	George H. Riddell, Ben'a	"	George H. Riddell, Ben'a	"	George H. Riddell, Ben'a	"	George H. Riddell, Ben'a	"	L. P. Shuburn, Benicula	"
	B. J. McGee, Benicula	"	B. J. McGee, Benicula	"	B. J. McGee, Benicula	"	B. J. McGee, Benicula	"	E. J. McCrece	"
	Curtis Wilson, Green Valley	"	Curtis Wilson, Green Valley	"	Sammuel Martin, Green Valley	"	Curtis Wilson, Green Valley	"	J. M. Lemon, Green Valley	"
	J. W. Field, Green Vally	"	J. H. McKean, Gr'n Vally	"	Curtis Wilson, Gr'n Vally	"	Curtis Wilson, Gr'n Vally	"	Curtis Wilson, Gr'n Vally	"
	G. R. Miner, Suisun	"	G. R. Miner, Suisun	"	G. R. Miner, Suisun	"	G. R. Miner, Suisun	"	J. D. Brower, Suisun	"
	J. G. Lawson, Jr., Suisun	"	J. W. Kinloch, Suisun	"	Henry Hubbard, Suisun	"	Henry Hubbard, Suisun	"	Henry Hubbard, Suisun	"
	F. B. Ward, Vacaville	"	F. P. Ward, Vacaville	"	F. P. Ward, Vacaville	"	F. P. Ward, Vacaville	"	F. P. Ward, Vacaville	"
	Merit Thiers, Vacaville	"	N. Pierce	"	J. C. Merryfield, Vacaville	"	J. C. Merryfield, Vacaville	"	J. C. Merryfield, Vacaville	"
	J. B. Tufts, Tremont	"	J. B. Tufts, Tremont	"	T. M. Gregory, Tremont	"	Jas. F. Cloutman, Tr'e't	"	J. F. Cloutman, Tremont	"
	Mason P. Casswell, Mon'a	"	J. M. Sidwell, Monte'ma	"	A. C. Kirkpatrick, Mon'a	"	J. B. Carrington, Mon'a	"	J. B. Carrington, Mon'a	"
	Win. F. Sheppard, "	"	J. B. Carrington, "	"	Mason P. Casswell, "	"	John Shelley, Monte'ma	"	C. A. Phee, Monte'ama	"
		"		"		"		"	W. C. Palmer, M'e Pri'e	"
		"		"		"		"	G. A. Blakeslee, "	"

Constables.....	Sept. 1	Sept. 2
John Dawson, Vallejo.....	P. McElroy, Vallejo.....	P. McElroy, Vallejo.....
Jesse Wright, ".....	Chas. Ackerman, Vallejo.....	R. S. Magriness, Vallejo.....
H. Norton, Benicia.....	J. O'Donnell, Benicia.....	H. Norton, Benicia.....
R. E. Bourmes, ".....	Mich. Fendergast, Benicia.....	R. E. Bourmes, Benicia.....
C. T. Canfield, Green Valley.....	W. A. Field, Green Valley.....	W. A. Field, Green Valley.....
John M. Outler, Green Valley.....	D. Lander, Green Valley.....	E. Tilton, Green Valley.....
John Oiler, Suisun.....	R. M. Apgar, Suisun.....	V. Wilson, Suisun.....
M. W. Pratt, ".....	Hooker Ballard, Suisun.....	C. Loomis, Suisun.....
C. H. Stevens, Vacaville.....	J. T. Hull, Vacaville.....	J. C. Maupin, Vacaville.....
James Johnson, Vacaville.....	James O. Zurnwaldt, Vacaville.....	J. S. Johnson, ".....
Shepard Andrews, Tremont.....	S. F. Hyde, Tremont.....	J. McFarland, Tremont.....
Floyd Potter, Tremont.....	R. W. Parker, Montezuma.....	S. G. Little, Tremont.....
John Pierce, Montezuma.....	J. Little, Montezuma.....	R. G. Garfield, Montezuma.....
H. Cruder, ".....	H. Pierce, ".....	S. Priplet, Manito Prairie.....
Commissioners of Common Schools.....	J. W. Farmer, Vallejo.....	G. B. Triplett, ".....
James Ryan, Montezuma.....	Charles Quigg, Benicia.....	John Sedgley, Vallejo.....
James Jones, ".....	W. Fowler, Green Valley.....	J. G. Johnson, Benicia.....
	A. B. Meacham, Suisun.....	R. C. Gillespie, Green Valley.....
	H. Eversoll, Vacaville.....	H. Blanchard, Suisun.....
	W. Driesback, Tremont.....	H. Eversole, District No. 1, Vacaville.....
	E. T. Gill, Montezuma.....	James Ewing, District No. 2, Vacaville.....
		J. W. Zurnwaldt, District No. 3, Vacaville.....
		W. Driesbach, Tremont.....
		G. A. Daniels, District No. 1, Montezuma.....
		J. M. Upham, District No. 2, Montezuma.....
		S. Stewart, District No. 3, Montezuma.....

NOTES.—1863-64:

May 21, 1862.—P. Mayer to be Justice of the Peace Vallejo Township vice Hook, deceased.

Aug. 10, 1864.—J. B. Carrington to be Road Master District No. 1, Montezuma Township, vice Daniels, resigned.

NOTES.—1862-63:

Nov. 17, 1862.—Charles Forbes to be Road Master Green Valley Township vice Delameter.

Aug. 10, 1864.—E. H. Von Pfister to be Justice of the Peace Benicia Township, vice McGee.



Table showing the State, County and Township Officers from the year 1850 to 1879 inclusive, with Notes, giving Movements and Appointments between each General Election—continued.

Name of Office.	1864.		1865.		1867.		1869.		1871	
	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.	Name of Holder.	Date of Elec'n.
<b>Senators.</b>	John T. Hall.	Sept. 6	L. B. Mizner.	Sept. 6	L. B. Mizner.	Sept. 4	William Minis.	Sept. 4	William Minis.	Sept. 6
<b>Assemblymen.</b>	M. Wason.		James M. Lemon.		John E. Frisbie.		R. C. Halle.		M. J. Wright.	
<b>District Judge.</b>	J. B. Southard.	Oct. 18	J. B. Southard.	Oct. 18	J. B. Southard.		J. B. Southard.	Oct. 20	J. B. Southard.	
<b>County Judge.</b>	William K. Weston.		Thomas M. Swan.		Thomas M. Swan.		O. B. Powers.		O. B. Powers.	
<b>County Clerk.</b>	H. B. Sheldon.	Sept. 6	W. J. Costigan.	Sept. 6	W. J. Costigan.		John E. Lemmon.	Sept. 4	Charles A. Kidder.	
<b>County Treasurer.</b>	John Ferral.		John W. Fitch.		John W. Fitch.		John W. Fitch.		E. D. Perkins.	
<b>County Surveyor.</b>	R. W. Parker.		Charles A. Pine.		Charles A. Pine.		R. W. Fitch.		E. W. W. Fitch.	
<b>County Assessor.</b>	George H. Riddell.		H. G. Wetmore.		H. G. Wetmore.		H. K. Snow.		Joseph Hoyt.	
<b>County Recorder.</b>	E. F. Gillespie.		John S. Wood.		Almos Roberts.		Isaac Hobbs.		Joseph Jacobs.	
<b>County Sheriff.</b>	George W. Simonton.		George W. Simonton.		Milton Wason.		W. H. Fry.		W. H. Fry.	
<b>County Superintendent of Schools.</b>	A. F. Knorpe.		H. B. Rice.		Lewis D. Sanborn.		C. E. Holbrook.		C. E. Holbrook.	
<b>County Coroner.</b>	Joseph Hewett.		John R. Low.		Hazen Hoyt.		S. Decker.		Hazen Hoyt.	
<b>Public Administrator.</b>										
<b>County Tax Collector.</b>										
<b>Commissioner of Highways.</b>										
<b>District Attorney.</b>	John Doughty.	Oct. 18	Joseph McKenna.	Oct. 18	Joseph McKenna.		George A. Lamont.		J. F. Wendell.	
<b>Supervisors.</b>	Eben Hilton, Dist. No. 1	Sept. 6	D. N. Hastings, Dist. No. 1	Sept. 6	John Dowdell, Dist. No. 1		J. Callender, Dist. No. 1		A. D. Starr, Dist. No. 1.	
	C. S. Smith, Dist. No. 2		Sam'n Smith, Dist. No. 2		Sam. Breck, Dist. No. 2		Sam'l Breck, Dist. No. 2		Sam'l Breck, Dist. No. 2	
	C. S. Cushing, Dist. No. 3	Nov. 8	C. S. Cushing, Dist. No. 3	Nov. 8	J. W. Howard, Dist. No. 3		J. W. Howard, Dist. No. 3		J. F. Clontman, Dist. No. 3	
<b>District Assessors.</b>										
	C. W. Riley, Vallejo.	Nov. 8	C. W. Riley, Vallejo.	Oct. 18	J. G. Lawton.		C. W. Riley, Vallejo.	Oct. 20	C. W. Riley, Vallejo.	Oct. 18
<b>Justices of the Peace</b>	W. W. Chapman.		J. G. Lawton.		J. G. Lawton.		O. A. Munn.		O. A. Munn.	
	E. I. Von Fischer, Benia		E. J. McCreo, Benicia.		James Barry, Benicia.		James Barry, Benicia.		James Barry, Benicia.	
	L. D. Sanborn.		B. F. Gray.		George H. Riddell.		George H. Riddell.		George H. Riddell.	
	Curtis Wilson, Gr'n Valley		B. F. Davis, Green Valley		Henry O'Neal, Gr'n Valley		Chas. E. Shilliber, Gr'n Vly		Sam'l Martin, Gr'n Vally	
	J. M. Mon.		Curtis Wilson, Gr'n Valley		Curtis Wilson, Gr'n Vally		Curtis Wilson, Gr'n Vally		Curtis Wilson, Gr'n Vally	
	J. D. Brower, Suisun.		J. D. Brower, Suisun.		J. D. Brower, Suisun.		J. D. Brower, Suisun.		J. D. Brower, Suisun.	
	H. H. Harnon.		T. S. Hale, Suisun.		T. S. Hale, Suisun.		E. K. Gillespie.		E. K. Gillespie.	
	F. P. Ward, Vacaville.		Thomas H. Morton.		William A. Dunn, Vacave		W. L. Koppis, Vacaville.		F. E. Radehawy.	
	J. C. Merryfield.		J. W. Howard.		Z. C. Gower.		Z. L. Gower.		J. D. Tison.	
	J. F. Clontman, Tremont		J. F. Clontman, Tremont		J. C. Merryfield, Silvey-		J. C. Merryfield, Silvey-		J. C. Merryfield, Silvey-	
	J. J. Bagley.		William D. Brown, Sil-		William D. Brown, Sil-		A. W. Allen, Silveyville		R. McKinley, Silvey-	
	C. A. Pine, Montezuma.		J. U. Chase, Montezuma		J. F. Clontman, Tremont		J. F. Clontman, Tremont		F. M. Thomas, Tremont.	
	J. B. Carrington.		W. T. Rice.		Fred Warner.		B. J. Gidrrick.		S. F. Hyde.	
	W. C. Palmer, Maine Prae		W. S. Dryden, Maine Prae		W. R. Ferguson, Me Prae		J. B. Gaudin, Me Prae		C. H. Parkway, Me Prae	
	G. A. Blakeslee, Maine Prairie.		A. S. Hopkins, Maine Prairie.		W. C. Wynnan, Maine Prairie.		W. C. Wynnan, Maine Prairie.		G. Wynnan, Maine Prairie.	
			John M. Stowell, Rio Vista		Richard Thrush, Rio Vista		Richard Thrush, Rio Vista		H. Reimschel, Rio Vista	
			J. P. Marshall, Sr. Mong'a		J. P. Marshall, Sr. Mong'a		John F. Reilly, Montezuma		M. Stone.	
			William T. East, Mong'a		William T. East, Mong'a		Willard H. Hobberson		T. P. Hooper, Montez'ma	
			William Scott, Deary-ton		William Scott, Deary-ton		O. D. Arnold, Deary-ton		James Cooper, Montez'ma	
			J. B. Carrington.		J. B. Carrington.		J. B. Carrington.		J. B. Carrington.	



Sept. 6	George Edgar, Vallejo Valley.	Joseph Keshbury, Vallejo Valley.	W. M. Sanderson, Vallejo Valley.
Sept. 7	George Edgar, Vallejo Valley.	William Higgins, Green Valley.	David Ramsay, Green Valley.
Sept. 8	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	R. E. Bourries, Vallejo.	Hillis Martin, Green Valley.
Sept. 9	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	Thomas Tickle, Green Valley.	M. V. Owen, Suisun.
Sept. 10	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	E. Filton, Green Valley.	W. T. Bartlett, Suisun.
Sept. 11	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	N. C. Butler, Suisun.	H. W. Blanchard, Suisun.
Sept. 12	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	W. C. Mearns, Suisun.	J. C. Maupin, Yacaville.
Sept. 13	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	J. E. Stevenson, Yacaville.	C. K. Korns, Yacaville.
Sept. 14	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	J. P. Dineen, Yacaville.	L. B. Hawkins, Yacaville.
Sept. 15	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	E. Brown, Jr., Tremont.	J. S. Graves, Silveyville.
Sept. 16	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	Reuben Brunson, Suisun.	William Turnish, Suisun.
Sept. 17	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	Daniel Cushman, Montezuma.	L. Pearson, Tremont.
Sept. 18	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	R. Trush, Montezuma.	R. W. Royce, Suisun.
Sept. 19	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	C. P. Dryden, Maine Prairie.	W. L. Talbot, Maine Prairie.
Sept. 20	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	Stephen Lent, Maine Prairie.	G. Luttgess, Suisun.
Sept. 21	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	R. Trush, Rio Vista.	R. C. Sidwell, Rio Vista.
Sept. 22	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	J. M. Perry, Suisun.	W. S. Johnson, Rio Vista.
Sept. 23	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	John Trueman, Mont'na.	W. S. Johnson, Rio Vista.
Sept. 24	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	E. D. Shed, Suisun.	C. H. Rice, Montezuma.
Sept. 25	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	C. Garfield, Denverton.	C. K. Marshall, Suisun.
Sept. 26	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.	S. S. Seely, Suisun.	W. S. Johnson, Denverton.
Sept. 27	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.		David E. Wallace, Suisun.
Sept. 28	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.		W. C. Bobbit, Elmira.
Sept. 29	P. C. Smith, Vallejo.		John Truett, Suisun.

NOTES.—1864-65:  
 Aug. 8, 1865. Death of County Judge the Hon. W. K. Weston.  
 Sept. 11, 1865.—Hon. William S. Wells took his seat as County Judge vice Weston, deceased.  
 NOTES.—1865-66:  
 May 15, 1866.—C. S. Loomis to be Constable Suisun Township vice Bartlett, resigned.  
 June 28, 1866.—Joseph Hewett to be Public Administrator vice Law, failed to qualify.  
 George H. Riddell to be Justice of the Peace Benicia Township vice Gray, resigned.  
 Oct. 22, 1866.—John Brownlie to be Supervisor District No. 1 vice Hastings, resigned.  
 R. M. Algar to be County Coroner vice Rice, failed to qualify.  
 NOTES.—1867-69:  
 Nov. 4, 1867.—J. C. Merryfield to be Justice of the Peace Vacaville Township vice Howard, resigned.  
 Feb. 4, 1868.—William S. Dryden to be Justice of the Peace Maine Prairie Township vice Ferguson, failed to qualify.  
 Feb. 4, 1868.—J. E. Robinson to be Justice of the Peace Vacaville Township vice Dunn, failed to qualify.  
 May 5, 1868.—B. T. Osborne to be Justice of the Peace Suisun Township vice Harmon, failed to qualify.  
 Aug. 5, 1868.—Thomas H. Merton to be Justice of the Peace Suisun Township.  
 Nov. 2, 1868.—John Y. Rucker to be Justice of the Peace Silveyville Township vice Brown, failed to qualify.  
 Nov. 9, 1868.—John Callender to be Supervisor District No. 1 vice Brownlie, whose term of office has expired.  
 Feb. 10, 1869.—Henry Eversole to be Constable Vacaville Township.  
 May 3, 1869.—M. S. Stone to be Justice of the Peace Rio Vista Township.  
 John D. Ingersoll to be Constable Rio Vista Township.  
 NOTES.—1869-71:  
 Nov. 2, 1869.—W. A. Munson and V. A. Tapscott to be Constables Silveyville Township.  
 Feb. 7, 1870.—William A. Dunn to be Justice of the Peace Vacaville Township vice Korns, failed to qualify.  
 Feb. 8, 1870.—M. S. Stone to be Justice of the Peace Rio Vista Township vice Dameron, failed to qualify.

NOTES.—1869-71.

Feb. 10, 1870.—W. S. Dryden to be Constable Maine Prairie Township vice Triplett, failed to qualify.  
 Aug. 2, 1870.—C. Denton to be Constable M'e Prairie Township vice Dryden, failed to qualify.  
 Aug. 2, 1870.—R. M. Algar to be Constable Suisun Township vice Blanchard, removed from the township.  
 Aug. 3, 1870.—T. B. Barnes to be Constable Silveyville Township vice Tapscott, failed to qualify.  
 Aug. 3, 1870.—G. R. Miner to be Justice of the Peace Silveyville Township vice Allen, removed from the county.  
 Feb. 7, 1871.—Thomas P. Hooper to be Justice of the Peace Montezuma Township vice Rice, deceased.  
 Feb. 7, 1871.—George Edgar to be Constable Vallejo Township vice Hudson, resigned.  
 NOTES.—1871-73:  
 Nov. 7, 1871.—John H. Baunsto to be Justice of the Peace Elmira Township.  
 F. B. Ross-Lewin to be County Coroner vice Holbrook, resigned.  
 Feb. 5, 1872.—O. Bingham to be Justice of the Peace Vacaville Township vice Tilson, failed to qualify.  
 Feb. 9, 1872.—James Smith to be Constable Elmira Township.  
 May 6, 1872.—J. D. Ingersoll to be Constable Rio Vista Township.  
 May 7, 1872.—C. A. Loomis to be Constable Suisun Township vice Owen, left the county.  
 July 20, 1872.—W. J. Costigan to be County Clerk vice Kidder, absent without leave.  
 Aug. 6, 1872.—A. F. Knorpe to be County Coroner vice Ross-Lewin, resigned.  
 Nov. 4, 1872.—Solomon Craner to be Justice of the Peace Rio Vista Township vice Stone, deceased.  
 Nov. 11, 1872.—George W. Medbermont to be Supervisor District No. 2 vice Breek, whose term of office has expired.  
 Nov. 13, 1872.—A. E. Newcomb to be Constable Vallejo Township vice Markey, deceased.  
 Feb. 5, 1873.—Robert Clark to be Justice of the Peace Maine Prairie Township vice Barkway, removed from the township.  
 May 5, 1873.—A. W. Royce to be Constable Tremont Township vice R. W. Royce, resigned.  
 July 7, 1873.—T. H. Morton to be Justice of the Peace Suisun Township vice J. D. Brower, resigned.

Table showing the State, County and Township Officers from the year 1850 to 1879 inclusive, with Notes, giving Movements and Appointments between each General Election—continued.

Name of Office.	1873.		1875.		1877.	
	Name of Holder.	Date of Election.	Name of Holder.	Date of Election.	Name of Holder.	Date of Election.
Senators.	H. E. McCune.	Sept. 3	H. E. McCune (joint)	Sept. 1	John T. Lambert (joint)	Sept. 5
Assembliesmen.	John L. Heald.	"	S. G. Hilborn.	"	S. G. Hilborn.	"
County Judge.	J. B. Southard.	Dec. 16	W. C. Wallace.	Oct. 20	W. C. Wallace.	"
District Judge.	John M. Gregory.	Sept. 3	John M. Gregory.	Sept. 1	John M. Gregory.	Oct. 29
County Clerk.	Joel A. Harvey.	"	Joel A. Harvey.	"	Alexander Dunn.	Sept. 5
County Treasurer.	W. G. Wyman.	"	J. B. Lemon.	"	J. B. Lemon.	"
County Surveyor.	A. H. Gimring.	"	Alexander Dunn.	"	J. W. Fitch.	"
County Assessor.	A. T. Hatch.	"	John Woods.	"	John Woods.	"
County Recorder.	E. F. Gillespie.	"	T. H. Chandler.	"	C. Knox Marshall.	"
County Auditor.	E. D. Perkins.	"	Thomas P. Hooper.	"	John E. Williston.	"
County Sheriff.	C. W. Childs.	"	John E. Williston.	"	J. K. Baileman.	"
County Coroner.	James Topley.	"	C. W. Childs.	"	A. L. White.	"
Public Administrator.	Hazen Hoyt.	"	James Topley.	"		"
County Tax Collector.	Peter Timm.	"	Hazen Hoyt.	"		"
Commissioner of Highways.	J. G. Johnson.	"	J. F. Wendell.	"		"
District Attorney.	J. F. Wendell.	"	J. F. Wendell.	"	O. R. Coghlan.	"
Supervisors.	Abraham Powell, District No. 1.	"	J. H. Powell, District No. 1.	"	D. W. Harrier, District No. 1.	"
	G. W. McDermott, District No. 2.	"	S. G. Hilborn, District No. 2.	"	J. McHadden, District No. 2.	"
	J. F. Cloutman, District No. 3.	"	G. W. McDermott, District No. 3.	Sept. 1	J. B. Hoyt, District No. 3.	"
	A. D. Starr, District No. 4.	"	S. K. Baker, District No. 4.	"	S. K. Baker, District No. 4.	"
	J. F. Brown, District No. 5.	"	J. F. Brown, District No. 5.	"	James McCroly, District No. 5.	"
	C. W. Riley, Vallejo.	Oct. 15	C. W. Riley, Vallejo.	Oct. 20	T. B. Elder, Vallejo.	Oct. 29
Justices of the Peace.	O. A. Munn.	"	H. H. Dwyer.	"	William Aspenall.	"
	James Barry, Benicia.	"	James Barry, Benicia.	"	James Barry, Benicia.	"
	George H. Riddell.	"	George H. Riddell.	"	George H. Riddell.	"
	F. S. Jones, Green Valley.	"	F. S. Jones, Green Valley.	"	Henry Crow, Green Valley.	"
	Curtis Wilson.	"	Curtis Wilson.	"	Curtis Wilson.	"
	H. Hubbard, Suisun.	"	H. Hubbard, Suisun.	"	H. Hubbard, Suisun.	"
	E. E. Hathaway.	"	George A. Gillespie.	"	Charles S. Loomis.	"
	F. P. Ward, Vacaville.	"	F. P. Ward, Vacaville.	"	F. P. Ward, Vacaville.	"
	O. Bingham.	"	C. H. Stevenson.	"	J. R. Wells.	"
	J. C. Merrifield, Silverville.	"	William Van Saut.	"	C. P. Brown, Silverville.	"
	L. W. Ellis.	"	William Van Saut.	"	Joel Davenport.	"
	S. F. Hyde, Trentont.	"	S. M. Sheed, Trentont.	"	J. B. Trafts, Trentont.	"
	Gustav Lutidges, Mahe Prairie.	"	Gustav Lutidges, Mahe Prairie.	"	S. F. Hyde.	"
	Sherman Brown.	"	H. Kelly.	"	Gustav Lutidges, Mahe Prairie.	"
	A. H. Hawley, Rio Vista.	"	J. D. Ingersoll, Rio Vista.	"	G. A. Brown.	"
	W. C. Palmer.	"	J. E. Town.	"	Lewis Chase.	"
	Thomas F. Hooper, Montezuma.	"	C. H. Rice, Montezuma.	"	Josiah Hilton, Montezuma.	"
	James Galbraith.	"	James Galbraith.	"	John Bird.	"
	J. B. Carrington, Denverton.	"	G. C. Arnold, Denverton.	"	O. D. Arnold, Denverton.	"
	J. A. Collier, Elmira.	"	C. H. Allison, Elmira.	"	James Ralls.	"
	John H. Barrett.	"	John H. Barrett.	"	R. B. March, Elmira.	"
		"		"	John H. Barrett.	"

S. E. Hutchings, "	S. E. Hutchings, "	"	S. E. Hutchings, "	"
P. McNally, Benicia.	P. McNally, Benicia.	"	P. McNally, Benicia.	"
A. J. Glover,	A. J. Glover,	"	A. J. Glover,	"
David Ramsay, Green Valley.	David Ramsay, Green Valley.	"	David Ramsay, Green Valley.	"
John Valentine, "	John Valentine, "	"	John Valentine, "	"
Charles S. Loomis, Suisun.	Charles S. Loomis, Suisun.	"	Charles S. Loomis, Suisun.	"
James T. Wells,	James T. Wells,	"	James T. Wells,	"
D. K. Korns, Vacaville.	D. K. Korns, Vacaville.	"	D. K. Korns, Vacaville.	"
James Laycock,	James Laycock,	"	James Laycock,	"
J. S. Graves, Silveville.	J. S. Graves, Silveville.	"	J. S. Graves, Silveville.	"
T. B. Barnes,	T. B. Barnes,	"	T. B. Barnes,	"
A. W. Royce, Tremont.	A. W. Royce, Tremont.	"	A. W. Royce, Tremont.	"
Walter Scott, Maine Prairie.	Walter Scott, Maine Prairie.	"	Walter Scott, Maine Prairie.	"
James Hardy,	James Hardy,	"	James Hardy,	"
J. D. Ingersoll, Rio Vista.	J. D. Ingersoll, Rio Vista.	"	J. D. Ingersoll, Rio Vista.	"
J. C. Bond, Montezuma.	J. C. Bond, Montezuma.	"	J. C. Bond, Montezuma.	"
E. J. Upham,	E. J. Upham,	"	E. J. Upham,	"
C. E. Garfield, Denverton.	C. E. Garfield, Denverton.	"	C. E. Garfield, Denverton.	"
S. L. Wentworth,	S. L. Wentworth,	"	S. L. Wentworth,	"
James Smith, Elmira.	James Smith, Elmira.	"	James Smith, Elmira.	"
T. E. McFall,	T. E. McFall,	"	T. E. McFall,	"

NOTES.—1873-75:

Feb. 2, 1874.—S. Craner to be Justice of the Peace Rio Vista Township *vice* Palmer, failed to qualify.

Feb. 20, 1874.—J. H. Powell to be Supervisor District No. 2 *vice* A. Powell, resigned.

Mar. 2, 1874.—E. H. Barstacy to be Constable Maine Prairie Township.

Mar. 4, 1874.—George B. Edgercombe to be Janitor County Court-House.

Sept. 7, 1874.—S. G. Hibborn to be Supervisor District No. 2 *vice* J. H. Powell.

Nov. 3, 1874.—S. K. Baker to be Supervisor District No. 4.

Nov. 3, 1874.—John C. Bond to be Constable Montezuma Township.

Dec. 29, 1874.—Peter Snythic to be Justice of the Peace *vice* Merryfield, removed from the county, (Silveville Township).

Dec. 29, 1874.—G. R. Miner to be Justice of the Peace Silveville Township *vice* Stevens, failed to qualify.

Mar. 2, 1875.—H. H. Dwyer to be Justice of the Peace Vallejo Township *vice* Munn, resigned.

May 3, 1875.—C. P. Brown to be Justice of the Peace Silveville Township *vice* Miner, deceased.

June 24, 1875.—William Wolf to be County Recorder *vice* E. F. Gillespie, deceased.

July 12, 1875.—Alexander Dunn to be County Surveyor *vice* Gunning, resigned.

NOTES.—1875-77:

Oct. 25, 1875.—John Callender to be Supervisor District No. 2 *vice* Hibborn, elected to the Senate.

NOTES.—1875-77:

Feb. 7, 1876.—J. B. Hoyt to be Supervisor District No. 3 *vice* MeDermott, whose term of office has expired.

Feb. 7, 1876.—William Hosking to be Justice of the Peace Montezuma Township *vice* Rice, failed to qualify.

Aug. 7, 1876.—John Bird to be Justice of the Peace Montezuma Township.

Aug. 8, 1876.—R. D. Sanborn to be Constable Vallejo Township *vice* Hutchins, resigned.

Nov. 7, 1876.—D. W. Harrier to be Supervisor District No. 1 *vice* Powell, term of office expired.

Feb. 6, 1877.—Van B. Smith to be County Coroner *vice* Topley, resigned.

May 7, 1877.—A. L. White to be County Coroner *vice* Smith, resigned.

May 8, 1877.—O. D. Arnold to be Justice of the Peace Denverton Township.

NOTES.—1877-79:

Mar. 5, 1878.—C. M. Schell to be Constable Elmira Township.

Mar. 6, 1878.—J. W. Cotten to be Justice of the Peace Silveville Township.

June 30, 1878.—John H. Barrett to be County Auditor.

June 3, 1878.—John B. Fiscus to be Constable Rio Vista Township.

July 1, 1878.—A. J. Mikessell to be Justice of the Peace Elmira Township.

Sept. 4, 1878.—J. W. Arnold to be Justice of the Peace Montezuma Township.

Sept. 4, 1878.—Alfred Dalton to be Supervisor District No. 3 *vice* J. B. Hoyt, term of office expired.

Feb. 4, 1879.—John Calvin to be Justice of the Peace Green Valley Township *vice* Curtis Wilson, resigned.

Mar. 3, 1879.—J. W. Cameron to be Justice of the Peace Rio Vista Township *vice* Chase, resigned.



## MEXICAN GRANTS.

BY A. J. DOBBINS.

SUSCOL—SUISUN—TOLENAS—LOS PUTOS—RIO LOS PUTOS—  
ULPINOS.

When California was acquired by the United States by treaty with the Mexican Government, the larger portion of the five hundred and forty-five thousand four hundred and forty acres included in the present boundary lines of Solano county was covered by, and claimed under, six Mexican grants, distributed as follows:

“The Suscol,” lying in the southern and western portion of the county, including the townships of Vallejo and Benicia, and containing about eighty-four thousand acres.

The “Suisun,” lying to the eastward of the Suscol, including within its limits the whole of Suisun valley, together with the towns of Suisun and Fairfield, and containing seventeen thousand seven hundred and fifty-two acres.

The “Tolenas,” or “Armijo,” lying to the north and east of the Suisun, and containing thirteen thousand three hundred and fourteen acres.

The “Los Putos,” or Vaca and Pena, lying to the northeast of the Armijo, covering the town of Vacaville and the whole of Vaca valley, and containing forty-four thousand three hundred and eighty acres.

The “Rio Los Putos,” or Wolfskill, lying to the northwest of the Los Putos, and on both sides of Putah creek, in both Solano and Yolo counties. That portion situated in Solano county, containing eight thousand eight hundred and eighty acres.

The “Ulpinos,” or Bidwell, located in the eastern portion of the county, at the junction of the Sacramento river and Cache Slough, covering the town of Rio Vista and the Montezuma hills, and containing seventeen thousand seven hundred and fifty-two acres.

By the terms of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the United States, upon proper showing of titles by grantees of the Mexican and Spanish Governments, was found to confirm them, and not only were perfect titles acquired by the inhabitants under Mexican domination agreed to be respected, but also such equitable claims as had their origin in the action of the Mexican Government, but were undeveloped and incomplete at the date of the treaty; and it was stipulated that such steps should be taken as were necessary to protect the same. The rights of property of the citizens of the ceded territory were to remain unchanged. By the law of



nations those rights were sacred and inviolable, and the obligation passed to the Government of the United States to protect and maintain them by proper legislative action when the requisite protection could not be afforded by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings in the established tribunals or by existing legislation.

In many instances, however, the boundaries of the grants were indefinite, and the titles to some being imperfect, for years the affairs of the county were in an unsettled condition, consequent upon the frequent recurrence of acts of violence and bloodshed growing out of the litigation of land titles. Surveying parties were frequently forced to desist and driven off by armed gangs of squatters, who destroyed and removed monuments and land-marks, obstructed the officers of the law in the discharge of their official duties, and who carried their lawlessness to such an extent that many *bona fide* purchasers willingly disposed of their claims for a nominal sum and betook themselves to some more quiet county, where the danger of loss of life or limb was not a necessary concomitant upon the ownership of real estate.

The bitter and protracted controversy which arose out of the dispute as to the location of the line between the Suisun and the Arnijo Grants, presents a striking illustration of the indefinite and uncertain manner in which these grants were located by the original grantees, at a time when the question of a few hundred, or even thousand, acres was a matter of so little importance as to be unworthy of attention. But, subsequently, as the years rolled on, and the increase in values required the boundary lines to be distinctly and permanently settled, the latitude which had formerly been allowed to the original grantees in locating their grants, as necessity or convenience dictated, proved a source of almost interminable annoyance and vexation, as well as a heavy expense to those who purchased under them.

On the 16th of January, 1837, Francisco Solano, the chief of the tribe of Indians known as the Suisunes, presented to Commandant-General M. G. Vallejo a petition for a grant of land in the following terms:

*“To the Commandant-General :*

“Francisco Solano, principal chief of the unconverted Indians and born captain of the ‘Suisun,’ in due form before your Honor represents ;

“That, being a free man, and owner of a sufficient number of horses and cattle to establish a rancho, he solicits from the strict justice and goodness of your Honor, that you be pleased to grant him the land of the Suisun, with its known appurtenances, which are a little more or less than four square leagues from the ‘Portzuela to the Salina de Sacha.’ Said land belongs to him by hereditary right from his ancestors, and he is actually in possession of it, but he wishes to revalidate his rights in accordance with the existing laws of our Republic and of the order of colonization recently decreed by the Supreme Government.

“He, therefore, prays that your Honor be pleased to grant him the land which he asks for, and procure for him, from the proper sources, the titles which may be necessary for his security, and that you will also admit this on common paper, there being none of the corresponding stamp in this place.

(Signed)

“ FRANCISCO SOLANO.

“ Sonoma, January 16, 1837.”

To this petition the Commandant-General responded by issuing a decree, in which he granted to Solano, temporarily and provisionally, the use of the land petitioned for, to the amount of four square leagues, at the same time instructing the grantee to ask from the governmental of the State the usual titles, in order to make valid his rights in conformity with the order of colonization.

Accordingly, on the 15th of January, 1842, Solano presented a petition to Governor Juan B. Alvarado, accompanying it with the above petition to the Commandant-General, together with the temporary grant made by that officer, and asked for a permanent and perpetual grant of the premises.

In answer to this petition, Governor Alvarado, on the 21st of January, 1842, issued a grant in due form, of which the following is a copy :

[SEAL.]

“ JUAN. B. ALVARADO,

“ *Constitutional Governor of the Department of the Californias.*

“ WHEREAS, The aboriginal, Francisco Solano, for his own personal benefit and that of his family, has asked for the land known by the name of Suisun, of which place he is a native, and chief of the tribes of the frontier of Sonoma, and being worthy of reward for the quietness which he caused to be maintained by that unchristianized people; the proper proceedings and examinations having previously been made as required by the laws and regulations, using the powers conferred on me in the name of the Mexican nation, I have granted to him the above mentioned land, adjudicating to him the ownership of it, by these presents, being subject to the approbation of the most excellent Departmental Junta, and to the following conditions, to-wit :

1. “ That he may inclose it, without prejudice to the crossings, roads, and servitudes, and enjoy it freely and exclusively, making such use and cultivation of it as he may see fit; but within one year he shall build a house and it shall be inhabited.

2. “ He shall ask the magistrate of the place to give him Juridical possession of it, in virtue of this order, by whom the boundaries shall be marked out; and he shall place in them, besides the land-marks, some fruit or forest trees of some utility.

3. “ The land herein mentioned is to the extent of four ‘ *sitios de ganado mayor,*’ (four square leagues) with the limits, as shown on the map, accompanying the respective *expediente*. The magistrate who gives the possession

will have it measured according to ordinance, leaving the excess, that may result, to the nation for its convenient uses.

4. "If he contravene these conditions he shall lose his right to the land and it may be denounced by another.

"In consequence, I order that these presents be held firm and valid; that a register be taken of it in the proper book, and that it be given to the party interested, for his voucher and other purposes.

"Given this twenty-first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and forty-two, at Monterey.

(Signed)

"JUAN B. ALVARADO.

(Signed)

"MANUEL JIMENO, Secretary."

In September, 1845, the Committee on Vacant Lands submitted to the Departmental Assembly a report in which the approval of the grant was recommended; and, thereupon, in the following month, that body issued the following order:

"ANGELES, Oct. 3, 1845.

"In session of this day, the proposition of the foregoing report was approved by the most excellent Departmental Assembly, ordering the original *expediente* to be returned to His Excellency, the Governor, for suitable purposes.

(Signed)

"PIO PICO, President.

(Signed)

"AUGUSTIN OLONA, Secretary."

A copy of the order of approval was issued to Solano on the same day.

The first application of Armijo for his grant was made some two years subsequent to that of Solano, and was in the following language:

"*Senor Commandant-General*:

"Jose Francisco Armijo, by birth a Mexican, before your Honor, in the manner which may be best for me in the law, say: That having four sons, natives of the same country, without owning any lands to cultivate, finding myself owner of about one hundred head of cattle, the product of which I annually lose, supplicate that your Honor will be pleased to concede to me the place known to me by the name of Tolenas. That in company with my son, Antonio Maria, I dedicate myself to the cultivation of my own land and the breeding of cattle, with the understanding that the land which I solicit is from the place already mentioned to Ololatos creek, containing about three leagues of land, more or less, and it joins with the Suisun rancho.

"For this I pray that you will be pleased to decree as I have petitioned, for which I respectfully forward, herewith, the map.

"This favor I shall perpetuate on my memory.

[Does not know how to sign.]

"Sonoma, Nov. 22d, 1839."

Immediately upon the receipt of the petition the Commandant-General made an order upon its margin, in which permission was given to Armijo to occupy the premises described therein upon condition that he should not in any manner molest or disturb the wild Indians who lived upon it; but, on the contrary, he should endeavor to inspire them with confidence in the whites; and should any act of rebellion occur among them he should immediately communicate the same to Solano, the chief of the "Suisunes," with whom, by reason of his proximity with both parties, it would be convenient to advise as to whatever might conduce to the lives and tranquility of the settlers. Armijo, upon this order, entered into the possession of the land, and subsequently presented a petition substantially the same as the one to the Commandant-General, to Jose Castro, the Prefect of the First District, asking for a permanent grant, in accordance with the law of colonization.

This petition the Prefect referred to the Governor, together with his Report upon the same, as follows:

*"Most Excellent Senor Governor:*

"The Prefecture being informed of the petition which Jose Francisco Armijo makes in claiming the land which he indicates, and of the order of the Senor Commandant-General, no objection is found to the concession which the Government ought to decree, provided the party interested obtains the necessary requisites to be attended to, and that the place which he solicits is found to be entirely vacant.

(Signed) JOSE CASTRO."

In response to the petition, Governor Alvarado, on the 4th of March, 1840, issued a grant to Armijo for the three square leagues, to which grant the same conditions were annexed as were contained in the grant to Solano, relative to the manner of acquiring possession, establishing boundary lines, and the planting of trees within its limits, to which an additional condition was annexed that through no motive whatever should he in any manner molest the Indians who were there located, nor the immediate neighbors with whom he would adjoin.

The grant was issued in all respects with due regard to form, with the single exception that it never received the approval of the Departmental Assembly, as was the case in the Suisun grant. However, it was subsequently decided by the Supreme Court of this State that such lack of approval did not in any way impair its title.

Solano's title to the Suisun grant was subsequently acquired by M. G. Vallejo, by purchase, and that of Armijo to the Tolenas, upon his death, in 1849, by his son Antonio.

Before the death of the elder Armijo, some time in the year 1847, a dispute arose between M. G. Vallejo, Solano's grantee, and Armijo, concerning



the location of the boundary line between the two grants, which resulted in the institution of an action of trespass by Vallejo against Armijo, before Alcalde L. W. Boggs, Armijo claiming that a certain *arroyo seco*, or dry gulch, formed the line, and Vallejo placing it some distance to the northward, the difference in question involving several thousand acres of land. It was finally, agreed, however, that the matter be submitted to two arbitrators, whose decision should be final. Accordingly one Cajetano Juarez was selected as arbitrator on the part of Vallejo, and one Salvador Vallejo, on the part of Armijo.

The arbitrators held a meeting in August, 1847, at which time proofs and documents on both sides were presented to them, and on the 16th of that month they submitted the following award :

“ We, the undersigned, appointed arbitrators by and for Mariano G. Vallejo, and Francisco Armijo, to decide upon the question existing between them for having the last trespassed his limits, and usurping part of the land belonging to the farm of the first, as it is expressed in the complaint presented before the Alcalde of the jurisdiction, L. W. Boggs ; and after hearing the declaration of both parties, and examination made of the proofs and documents presented to us, we find that the limits of each farm are clearly determined, in their respective titles, being those of the Tolenas farm, according to the said, the Suisun creek, which runs to the N. N. E. of Suisun, and beginning from thence, at the first limits mentioned there are to be measured three leagues running at E. N. E. as the ridge (Sierra) runs ; leaving the said ridge the natural limits lying between the two farms, separate them, leaving one at the north and the other at the south. Thus neither of the both parties is prejudicated, and the tital meaning of the respective titles to both farms are fulfilled with, and in order to so not burden one part more than another, the costs of the judgment and those of the tribunal ought to be paid equally by both parties.

“ And for the fulfillment of the contents of this present writing, we sign it by our hands and seals before the Alcalde of this jurisdiction, on the 16th day of August, A. D. 1847.

(Signed) CAJETANO JUAREZ,  
Arbitrator for M. G. Vallejo.

(Signed) M. G. VALLEJO.

(Signed) SALVADOR VALLEJO,  
Arbitrator for Francisco Armijo.

(Signed) FRANCISCO ARMIJO.”

This award as before stated, was made upon proofs and documents presented by both parties, and was recived as a victory for the Armijo faction. For a time the matter was regarded as settled ; but the question subsequently came again into dispute between purchasers under the respective claimants, in which the Armijo faction claimed that the award was final

and conclusive of the action in their favor, and they also offered testimony to show that Vallejo and others claiming under him had *stated* to certain parties that the arroyo seco, or dry gulch, in reality formed the north line of the Suisun grant, and contended that such admissions fixed the boundary at that point.

One Archibald A. Ritchie had in the meantime purchased Vallejo's interest, and procured a United States Patent for a large tract of land, which included in its limits that in controversy. The Ritchie purchasers claimed that the patent was in effect superior to the award made by the arbitrators, though issued at a later date, and for a time a bitter warfare, not unattended with frequent acts of violence and bloodshed, was waged both in and out of Court. The matter finally culminated in the celebrated case of *Waterman vs. Smith*, in which it was decided upon appeal to the Supreme Court that the award was only conclusive until the action of the General Government.

The dispute was continued for several years, however, until all the land in controversy was finally settled by compromise, or otherwise, and the danger which had formerly been attendant upon its ownership being removed, it rapidly increased in value, amply repaying those who had succeeded in retaining their claims after so many years of stubborn and tenacious warfare.

The most noted litigation almost in the annals of the State, grew out of the Suscol and the so-called "El Sobrante," or Luco grants. In the case of the former, it was claimed that General M. G. Vallejo had at various times during the Mexican troubles furnished the Government with large sums of money and other supplies; and in consideration of these favors and in part payment for his services as an officer in the Government employ, the Suscol, an eleven leagued grant, had been deeded to him. The title subsequently came into dispute; and after a most vexatious and expensive contest in the Courts, the grant was declared invalid and became public land. The Congress of the United States came to the relief of purchasers under the Vallejo title by the enactment of a special Pre-emption Act, allowing them to enter such lands, at \$1.25 per acre.

In the case of the "Sobrante," one Juan Luco claimed to have purchased from a Mexican vaquero a grant which he had received from the Mexican Government, of the stupendous quantity of two hundred and eighty-four thousand acres; but this grant, after a number of years of litigation, was rejected by the Courts, and that vast extent of territory added to the public domain.

In respect to the Vaca and Peña grant, nearly the entire property has gone out of the hands of the original grantees, they farming and owning but a very small portion of the original estate, while a history of the Los Ulpino grant will be found in the description of the township of Rio Vista.

## MURDER TRIALS OF SOLANO COUNTY.

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THE PEOPLE *vs.* EDWARD CROCKER — WILLIAM KEMP — BEVERLEY WELLS —  
 GEORGE K. MANN — ROBERT B. McMILLAN — PHILANDER ARNOLD — JACOB  
 ZAESCK — MERRILL JAMES — D. H. FITZPATRICK — FRANK GRADY — WILLIAM  
 WESTPHAL — D. G. GORDON — PANTHO VALENCIA — GUADALUPE VALENCIA —  
 JAMES MALLON — JAMES LOWTHER.

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Mention has been made in another portion of this volume, of the establishment of Perfectures, and a Judge of First Instance; while the judgment decreed in a suit heard in the court of the latter, has been copied *verbatim*.

With the acquisition of California by the Government of the United States, and the increase of population, better provision was made for carrying out the law. County Courts were established, and the Seventh Judicial District Court, among others, inaugurated. The first Judge of this Court was Robert Hopkins, who was succeeded by E. W. McKinstry, now of the Supreme Court.

In the following *resume* of the chief trials which have taken place in Solano county, we have confined ourselves to those of individuals who have been arraigned for the crime of murder. It has, however, been deemed best to refer to the following curious case as a starting point.

THE PEOPLE *v.* EDWARD CROCKER. — This was a case instituted at the instance of S. G. Hastings, Attorney-General, complaining that the defendant had intruded himself into the office of County Treasurer, and unlawfully held and exercised the duties of said office, and received the emoluments thereof. The plaintiff represented the different appointments to the office from its incipience in 1851, until the election of November, 1852, when George Leviston was preferred to fill the unexpired term for which Osgood H. Evans, the original Treasurer, since dead, had been elected. That in due time his certificate of election had been granted and bond filed; but, on demanding the books from S. C. Gray, the appointee of the Court of Session as the *locum tenens* of Evans, prior to the general election, he refused to deliver them to the said Leviston, and continued to exercise the duties of the office and receive the emoluments until the 14th of December, 1852, when he left the county. That on or about the 16th of December, the defendant, Crocker, intruded himself into the office without legal authority, and unlawfully held the books and papers from Leviston, to the detriment of the public interests.



In answer, the defendant gave a general denial to the case as set forth in the complaint, which, on going to trial, Judge McKinstry, on February 3, 1853, found for the plaintiff with costs.

**THE PEOPLE v. PETER WILLIAM KEMP.**—The first murder trial in Solano, county was that of Peter William Kemp, for the killing of Thomas Sullivan on the night of February 1, 1855. The victim was a fireman on board of one of the steamers then lying in the port of Benicia, while the slayer was a workman in the blacksmith's shop of the Pacific Works there. From the evidence adduced at the trial, it would appear that Sullivan and Kemp, who lived together, had a quarrel as to which of the two should cook their supper, and that the latter took up a Mississippi rifle which was within reach, and followed the former into a room, in the act of doing which the piece exploded, killing Sullivan. The verdict at the trial was one of not guilty.

Among the witnesses examined in this case for the prosecution were Beverley Wells, whose trial for murder immediately follows this, and that of his boon companion, John C. Heenan, the "Benicia Boy," of prize-fighting fame.

**THE PEOPLE v. BEVERLEY T. WELLS.**—The facts of this distardly deed are these: James H. Dunn, was Third Assistant Engineer of the Pacific Mail Steamer "Golden Gate;" he was killed by Beverley Wells, under the following circumstances: It appears that Dunn and Wells had been intimate friends for some time; that whenever the "Golden Gate" was in port they were constant companions, and never had any difficulty previous to the 17th February, 1856. On that morning they went out together to take a pleasure ride in a buggy. In the evening they returned and proceeded to the steamboat landing. After remaining there a short time, Wells got into the buggy, and started up town; Dunn ran after him, saying, "Hold on!" what, are you going without me?" and caught the horse by the head. Some angry words passed between them, when Wells proceeded to the stable of the American Hotel with the buggy, and paid the bill. He then went to the store of Mr. T. Pander, and purchased a large knife, and then walked down towards the wharf. When about half-way along the plank road leading from the ferry house to the landing, he was met by Dunn and a man named James Morgan. Dunn said: "Hallo, Beverley;" and immediately Wells struck him with the knife several times in quick succession. Dunn fell, crying: "Morgan, run for a doctor—I'm stabbed; Oh, Mother! Mother! Mother!" He expired in about ten minutes. On examining the body, four ghastly wounds were found, one in the abdomen at least six inches long, through which the bowels protruded; one in the right breast; one in the right thigh, six or eight inches long, and another on the right arm, near the right shoulder, completely severing the muscles. Wells was a large, power-



ful man: Dunn, about the medium size, slightly built. The murderer was at once arrested; but there being no jail in Benicia, where the foul deed was perpetrated, he was confined in Martinez prison, Contra Costa County.

The trial of the accused commenced on June 17th, and lasted the two following days; and was fully argued on both sides, when on the 19th the following verdict was brought in: "The jury in the case of the People of the State of California *vs.* Beverley T. Wells, find the said Beverley T. Wells guilty of the crime of murder. John Doughty, Foreman."

Monday, the 23rd of June, was fixed by the Court to pronounce sentence, which was done as follows: It is ordered, adjudged and decreed by this Court, that the said Beverley T. Wells be remanded to jail in charge of the Sheriff, from whence he be taken to some suitable place, to be selected by said Sheriff, in Solano county, on Friday, August the eighth, A. D. 1856, between the hours of ten A. M. of that day, and four P. M. of the same day, and then hung by the neck until he be dead.

As the execution of Wells was the first to take place in Solano county, we reproduce an account of it from the "Herald" of August 9th, 1856:

"Upon examination, it was found that our jail did not afford the necessary room, and no other place could be procured in town (Benicia) for the purpose. It was, therefore, necessary to have the scaffold erected in as secluded a spot as possible, in the hills adjacent to the town.

"The ferry-boat, 'Carquinez,' being laid up, repairing, the Sheriff found it necessary to provide a small vessel to transport the prisoner from Martinez (where he had been confined). An escort of twenty men was detailed from the Solano Engine Company, at the request of the Sheriff, to perform guard duty, and all left at an early hour for Martinez. The prisoner had been attended by the Rev. Mr. McDonald (at present writing, pastor of the Church of the Ascension, at Vallejo), and he was immediately taken on board the vessel, which arrived at the wharf at half-past eight—Rev. Mr. Woodbridge met them there. The prisoner appeared quite weak from loss of blood, but was calm, and expressed himself as prepared to die. He had a short interview with one of his counsel, to whom he renewed his assurance of the truth of his former statements of the affair, and referring to a letter he had written about the time of his first attempt to commit suicide, requested that it might be published after his death.

"At precisely ten o'clock the procession moved to the place of execution, accompanied by a large number of people. On arriving at the place, he ascended the scaffold, attended by the Rev. Messrs. Woodbridge and McDonald, Mr. Sheriff Shirley, and one of his deputies.

"The Sheriff immediately proceeded to read the warrant, and, upon its conclusion, informed the prisoner that he could then have an opportunity to say anything he might wish. Whereupon, he stepped forward firmly, and in a clear, unbroken voice, spoke, substantially as follows:

“ ‘Gentlemen—This is a malicious murder! James Morgan has perjured himself on the trial, not once, but fifteen or twenty times! He is my murderer! The homicide of Dunn, I am sure was justifiable! I forgive Morgan. I am about to die like a man. I commit myself to God, and die on amicable terms with all men.’

“He then stepped forward on the drop; his arms and limbs were tied by the Sheriff, and the prayers of the Episcopal Church were read by the Rev. Mr. McDonald; at their conclusion, and at the given signal, the drop fell. To all appearances he died instantly; and after one or two slight convulsive struggles, all was still.

“The execution was witnessed by about four hundred people, all of whom seemed deeply affected, and throughout the entire scene the most perfect decorum prevailed. Mr. Paul Shirley, the Sheriff, and Messrs. Estell and A. J. Bryant, Under and Deputy-Sheriffs, respectively, performed their respective duties in a highly satisfactory manner.”

The following is a letter which Wells wrote while in Martinez jail at the time when suicide was contemplated by him:

“TO THE PUBLIC—*Gentlemen*: My life is a burden to me at this present time; and being of a proud spirit, and the way that I have been so unjustly dealt with, I have come to the conclusion to dispose of myself in the manner which you here observe. I think that I am in my rational mind, although sorely afflicted with my present position, together with the false heart and flattering tongue of James Morgan, has caused me to commit myself in the manner that I have, and to present my soul to Almighty God for forgiveness of the so-called unpardonable sin. My exposition on the 23rd of June, in the Court House, at Benicia, was the truth, and is my dying declaration. I die, knowing that he, James Morgan, has sworn to several malicious and absolute falsehoods knowingly; but yet I forgive him. I hope that I leave this world on amicable terms with all mankind. After this publication let my name be ignored.

“BEVERLEY T. WELLS.

“Martinez Jail, July, 1856.”

It may be interesting here to note that Sheriff Shirley is now Senator from Contra Costa county; Under-Sheriff Estell is Under-Sheriff of Sacramento county; and Deputy-Sheriff Bryant, the Mayor of San Francisco.

It should here be observed, that as early as 1854 a case of homicide occurred in the county, when Jonathan Cook was killed by a gun-shot from George K. Mann; but, owing to the absconding of the culprit, with Sifford, an accomplice, the case was never brought to trial. The facts are these: Cook, it appeared, had missed a considerable amount of money, and charged Mann with the theft of it, which was indignantly denied; while Cook was warned not to repeat such an accusation. He disregarded the warning;

angry words ensued, which was followed by the killing of Cook as above described. This deed was done in the presence of a Justice of the Peace, and others; yet the prisoner escaped.

THE PEOPLE *v.* ROBERT B. McMILLAN.—This was a case of killing which occurred in Vacaville, whereby the defendant was indicted for the murder of John Parks, by reason of a dispute which took place through the alleged trespass of certain stock, the property of the defendant. The case was brought for trial before the District Court; but on September 30, 1859, the venue was changed to Yolo county, on motion of the attorney for the defendant.

THE PEOPLE *v.* PHILANDER ARNOLD.—The defendant was indicted and tried for feloniously killing one John M. Sweeney, at a certain corral in the township of Montezuma, in Solano county. The plea put in was that the homicide was in self-defense. The testimony, was, however, somewhat conflicting as to the facts occurring at the time of the killing; or, at least, was claimed to be so by the defendant. The reason for the shooting would appear to have been, that a difficulty occurred on the 24th of August, 1859, between Philander Arnold and Sweeney, in the course of which the former discharged a double-barrelled shot-gun at the latter, the charge taking effect in his thigh, causing Sweeney to fall forward, from the effects of which he died on August 27th. At the time of the charge of murder being brought against the defendant, the charge of aiding and abetting was preferred against Oscar D. Arnold, the son, who had brought the weapon to his father. The Court, in its instructions to the jury, took occasion to make the following logical remarks, which for forcible diction, cannot well be surpassed: "When you were being impanelled, certain of your number declared that they were strongly opposed to the infliction of capital punishment, but were not prepared to say that this opposition would preclude them from finding a verdict of guilty. I understood them to indicate only that as *citizens*—by vote and influence—they would endeavor to bring about such a change of legislative policy as would abrogate the death penalty, and substitute another punishment in its stead. This repugnance to taking part in a proceeding which may result in depriving a human being of that life which we can never recall, is natural. I am not prepared to say that it is not highly proper; at least, when it is not indulged in to such an extent as to cause us timidly to shrink from one of the duties which, as freemen, are imposed upon us as the means of preserving our liberties, among which, trial by jury, has ever been regarded as one of the most valuable of our privileges. I trust that, not only those of your number who are opposed to capital punishment, but all of the jurymen, have well considered the consequences to this defendant, of a verdict of murder in the first degree. Upon such verdict will follow an ignominious execution—the disgrace of an interesting



family—and, whether or not, he be prepared for the awful separation—the dissolution of those mysterious bonds which unite the soul to its earthy tenement.

“*Logically*, it might be argued that the jury have nothing to do with all this; that their task is simply to ascertain whether the prisoner at the bar be guilty or not guilty of the offense charged in the indictment. But it would be demanding too much of human nature, as it is constituted, to ask that these incidents shall be disregarded; nor do I think it *desirable* to require twelve rational men to shut their eyes to the consequences of their own acts. Accord them all due importance to these considerations. They can do no harm; while they operate to urge you on to a full and candid investigation into the facts of this case. I would have you feel the weight of the responsibility imposed upon you. But I would also have you summon all the faculties of your mind—especially all your moral courage—that you may make yourselves equal to the responsibility. I would have you prove yourselves worthy of the position you occupy—worthy of the confidence reposed in you, not only by the prisoner and the Court, but also by the District Attorney, the representative of the People. Remember the evil consequences, if you permit a mistaken clemency to overwhelm the dictates of reason. Although they may not seem so distinctly visible and immediate, they are no less certain than those which flow from an error in the opposite direction. If, through your instrumentality, an innocent man should suffer, or a guilty man escape, you may not cast the fault upon the court, the counsel, or even upon the witnesses; for you must say whether the *latter* are to be believed or not. You must endeavor in such case to satisfy your own violated consciences, and make peace with the offended God, in whose name you have sworn ‘a true verdict to render, and true deliverance to make—according to the *evidence*.’”

After a full trial, the jury brought in a verdict of manslaughter.

THE PEOPLE *v.* JOSEPH ZAESCK. — The above case is another of those of trespass, with a resort to violence, to enforce what was thought to be right. It would appear that the defendant had ordered off Daniel Thompson, and his brother, Ole, the man killed by Zaesck, off certain grounds, situated on the Montezuma hills, and also refused to give up certain sheep, their property, which had strayed into the flock of one Ambrose, for whom defendant had been a herder. A dispute ensued, which resulted in the stabbing of Ole Thompson, by Zaesck, inflicting a wound, from the effects of which he died on the 14th day of November, 1861, the day succeeding the commission of the crime. A verdict was rendered of guilty, on May 20, 1862, and he was finally sent to the State prison for four years.

THE PEOPLE *v.* MERRILL JAMES.—This was a case in which the defendant shot one Ashford Ashbrook, when at a dance at Mr. Fowler’s in Green valley. James effected his escape, and has never been brought to trial.



THE PEOPLE *v.* D. H. FITZPATRICK.—This was one more of those cases arising out of a trespass, where the use of firearms was resorted to by Fitzpatrick, to assert his rights, resulting in the shooting of one Croesdale, a squatter, on the Potrero Hills. The trial was had in due course, and on Saturday, May 21, 1864, defendant was sentenced to ten years in the State prison: but, after serving two years, through the indomitable perseverance and energy of his wife, he was pardoned.

THE PEOPLE *v.* FRANK GRADY.—This was a cutting affair which occurred at the election polls at Bridgeport, on the 6th of September, 1865, in which a man named English was killed and two others fearfully wounded, while a third received two shots in his breast and shoulder from a pistol. The circumstances attending the *emeute* are briefly these: About this time English and his two sons, Charles and Perry, were cutting wood on land owned by Perry Durbin, and the latter restrained them by injunction, on account of which, it is supposed Charles English made complaint to the military authorities at Benicia and caused the arrest of Durbin, Ramsey, Lamoree, Stilts and others for rejoicing over the assassination of President Lincoln. While at the polls, as above stated, English and Durbin were conversing; English gave the lie to Durbin; Durbin made a motion as of drawing a weapon, whereupon Charles English drew his revolver and commenced firing, two of the shots taking effect upon Durbin, hitting him in the left breast and shoulder. Durbin then drawing his knife, turned upon Charles, who, in attempting to escape, ran out of doors, but stumbled and fell, and commenced cutting at his throat, presenting a most horrible sight. Perry English on seeing his brother in a critical position, ran to his assistance, but just as he reached the contending parties, Frank Grady drew his revolver and shot Perry just at back and under his right ear, killing him instantly. Grady mounted his horse and left for parts unknown. The father then went to the relief of his son Charles, when Durbin turned upon the old man, and stabbed him in the breast three times, making fearful wounds. Durbin and the elder English were brothers-in-law. In due course Grady was captured and twice tried, when on 19th September, 1866, he was acquitted.

THE PEOPLE *v.* WILLIAM WESTPHAL.—The facts of this case are: Two Prussians, Fritz Polzing and William Westphal, were engaged in hauling barley from Westphal's ranch, about five miles south-east of Denverton, to the residence of Polzing, and when near the latter place went to the house and informed Mrs. Westphal, half sister of Polzing, that he had fallen from the wagon, and had been killed by being run over. She at once repaired to the spot and found Polzing still living and able to raise upon his elbow and signify by motions that he wanted water. She at once started to procure

the required beverage for the wounded man, when, after proceeding a short distance, on looking around, she saw Westphal strike Polzing three times upon the head with an axe, exclaiming "I will fix you out this time," and on again returning to the spot found life extinct. The defendant was found not guilty in the May term, 1866.

THE PEOPLE *v.* D. G. GORDON.—The particulars of this case are: The crime was committed at Vacaville by the killing of William Byron by David G. Gordon. It appears that Byron and Gordon had been on terms of enmity for some time, and during the day had been using severe language towards each other. Just before the occurrence Byron was playing billiards in a saloon with Antonio Do Santos, and was just preparing to make a play, when Gordon came in somewhat intoxicated. The latter approached Byron, put his arm around him, and the two talked for a little while apparently very amicably. They then shook hands, but as Gordon turned to go away Byron struck him with his cue, raising it to strike him again, when Gordon drew his pistol and shot Byron in the stomach. The latter then ran out of the back door and Gordon pursued him to the creek, firing at him four different times, each shot taking effect. Byron fell near the creek and expired in a few moments. On 21st May, 1868, Gordon was convicted of manslaughter.

The record of crime of this man Gordon did not cease here, for he has since in the State of Missouri been found guilty of murder and sentenced to death, which was afterwards commuted to imprisonment for life.

THE PEOPLE *v.* JAMES CAMPBELL AND ANNIE ROBINSON.—This was a case of poisoning which took place on the 25th January, 1869, whereby Jabez Robinson lost his life by the administering of *strychnia* at the hands of the defendants. Campbell, who though only an accessory before the fact, was indicted and tried as a principal and convicted and sentenced to death. Against this judgment he appealed to the Supreme Court, on the grounds that the verdict was insufficient inasmuch that the jury had omitted to specify the degree of murder in their finding. This was held to be good in law by Judges Crockett, Rhodes, Temple and Wallace of the Supreme Court. Judgment was therefore reversed and the cause remanded for a new trial. This was appointed to take place on January 23, 1871, and one hundred persons were summoned for difficulty was expected in the selection of a jury. One, however, was impanelled, who brought in a verdict of not guilty.

THE PEOPLE *v.* PANCHO VALENCIA AND GUADALUPE VALENCIA.—The circumstances attending this murder are briefly these: On the night of the 3d March, 1871, at seven o'clock, after the family of Joseph W. Hewitt had taken supper and retired to the parlor with some visitors, one of the family went to the door, in opening which she discovered two men crouching low and approaching the house; finding they were observed they



L. B. Wigner.





straightened up and coming towards her asked for "the man of the house." The little girl, Lizzie, who had gone to the door, went into the inner room and called her father, who came to the door; she followed him. Upon this one of the men asked Hewitt if they could stay there all night. Hewitt replied that in consequence of there being company in the house, and his barn having been burnt but a few weeks ago, he could not accommodate them, but informed them that they would be able to obtain the desired lodgings at the next ranch where there was a barn. The man who had questioned him at first, now asked him if he would mind coming out a little way and point out to them the direction. Hewitt complied and stepping off the porch walked down the yard a few paces, and while raising his hand to direct them, the larger of the two men—he who had spoken during the interview—drew a pistol and shot Hewitt who fell crying "I am murdered." The defendants were traced into Contra Costa county, arrested, brought home and put upon their trial for murder. Guadalupe was discharged, but Pencho was convicted and sentenced to death, said sentence having been carried out on November 24, 1871, making the second execution in Solano county.

**THE PEOPLE v. JAMES MALLON.**—A case of wife murder which occurred at Benicia on the evening of the 23d May, 1877, where the defendant came home drunk and beat his wife until death ensued. He was in due course arrested, tried and convicted of murder in the first degree, and on September 25th, was sentenced to imprisonment for life.

**THE PEOPLE v. JAMES LOWTHER.**—On Sunday, June 16th, 1878, the town of Rio Vista was thrown into a high state of excitement by the killing of John Thompson by a stranger, and apparently in cold blood, without cause or provocation. The shooting occurred on Thompson's door step and in full view of his wife. The murderer gave himself up to the officers and was lodged in jail, and in due time tried. At the trial the following facts were developed: The murderer's name was James Lowther, a resident of San Francisco. He had a sister named Rebecca to whom it was alleged that Thompson had been engaged to be married at one time, and while so engaged to her had seduced her. It came to Lowther's ears that Thompson had made his boast of his seduction, whereupon Lowther took the steamer the following Sunday for Vallejo, thence by rail to Fairfield, thence in a 'sulky' across the country to Rio Vista. Once there he inquired for Thompson and was shown his house. (Thompson was married to another woman and was living in his own house). Lowther went to the door, knocked, and Thompson came to the door. A very few words passed between them when Lowther drew a revolver and shot Thompson, the ball taking effect in the region of the heart. Thompson lived but a few minutes. Lowther was tried twice for the murder, and both times the jury disagreed. He is at present out on bail.

## BENICIA.

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The following interesting record of the township and city of Benicia has been most kindly furnished to us by S. C. Gray, Esq., an old pioneer of that city. We reproduce it, because a fuller and more concise record would be hard to find; and we take this opportunity to thank the author for his kindness in extending to us the permission to allow it to form a no mean portion of the history of Solano county:

### “RECOLLECTIONS OF BENICIA.

*A Lecture—By S. C. Gray.*

From the Pacific Ocean, whose waters press the shores of California, along a coast line scarcely less than one thousand miles in extent, between the 117th and 124th parallels of W. longitude, and from the 32d to the 42d parallel of N. latitude, the main entrance into this great State for the shipping and commerce of all nations, is through the world-renowned “Golden Gate,” the outlet for the waters contained within the Bay of San Francisco.

The striking features of the “Golden Gate” have been described again and again, by many writers; and its praises will continue to be sounded so long as the soul of man is touched by those beauties of nature that are presented to his appreciation through the medium of his sight.

As a counterpart, or, perhaps, a continuation of this charming “Golden Gate,” may be regarded the less renowned but equally beautiful, “Straits of Carquinez,” constituting the passage from the San Francisco and San Pablo bays into Suisun bay, that receptacle for all the interior waters of the State, which from the length and breadth of the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, have here descended to flow on their way to the sea through the deep and commodious channel of these Straits.

On account of their bold shores and beautiful outlines, the Straits have been likened to the Bosphorus, near Constantinople; and it may well be predicted, that in time when these hillsides have been subjected to the culture and adorned with the improvements of which they are susceptible, they will fairly rival that famous highway in attractiveness.

On the north side of these Straits, at a distance of twenty-eight miles from San Francisco, by the usual traveled route on steamer, but of not more than twenty-three miles north-eastwardly, in an air line, is situated the whilom city of Benicia, the scene of the reminiscences which are to be made the subject of this brief sketch. And what claim has Benicia, or its history, to our present consideration?

As we proceed, it is hoped that in due time this shall be made satisfactorily to appear.

Occupying a site, acknowledged to be rarely equalled for its natural advantages, on account of its capacious, land-locked harbor, having a great depth of water (not less than ten fathoms in mid-channel), its continuous water front for miles, the shores gently sloping up to the hills in the background, thus affording a perfect natural system of drainage, its position as a center towards which the great lines of travel must necessarily converge, and of its picturesque surroundings, it early attracted the attention of adventurous travelers, a few of whom, at least, confidently believed it to be fitted by nature, and destined to become in time, a commercial city of very considerable importance.

For a time, within the present generation, this view seemed likely to be realized; but that time has passed; and if it is to be renewed, it must be in the uncertain future, farther than the most gifted are permitted now to discern.

The panorama visible from the highest point within its limits, is one of surpassing beauty, such as few cities anywhere can boast, and needs but to be seen to be admired. From this point, which is easily reached, at the moderate elevation of 400 feet above the level of the bay, and distant but two miles from the water-front, may be seen, looking northward at a distance of about 20 miles, the twin peaks of the Suisun mountains, which separate Napa valley from Suisun valley, with a glimpse of the Vaca mountains, distant about 30 miles; N. E. the range of Green valley hills, which hide from view Suisun and the great valley of the Sacramento; eastward, the whole extent of Suisun bay, bounded by the Montezuma hills, 20 miles distant, with the white line of the Sierra Nevada rising in majesty, 100 miles beyond; S. E. the Black Diamond coal hills, and grand old Mount Diablo, which, though 20 miles distant, looks scarcely more than five, in all its full proportions, from base to summit, towering above the valley which bears its name; S., the village of Martinez, snugly embowered in its cosy shelter under the lee of its own wooded hills, with the great coast range of mountains stretching out beyond; S. and S. S. W., the placid Straits of Carquinez, hemmed in by the Contra Costa hills, which conceal from view the cities on the lower bay, but cannot prevent stern Mount Tamalpais from asserting itself prominently against the south-western sky; then westward the eye rests and lingers enchantedly on this second "Golden Gate" of the Straits, opening out into San Pablo Bay, of whose broad bosom the view is only limited by the distant hills of Marin county, some 25 miles away; then W. N. W., the city of Vallejo and Mare Island Navy Yard, in the foreground, with the hills near Petaluma in the distance; and finally, in the N. W., the Sonoma mountains, and in the N. N. W., the Suscol hills, amid which, the view ends with Sulphur Spring mountain, some five miles dis-



tant, as its most distinct and prominent object in that direction. In this panorama, which takes in a circuit of many hundreds of square miles, and a great variety of scenery the central object, spread out at your feet and skirting along the shore of the Straits, is the village of Benicia, resting as if in quiet and undisturbed repose, for no sound comes from its smooth streets, which are still comparatively in a state of nature, neither cobblestones. nor basalt blocks, nor carbonized brick, nor any other patent pavement having, as yet, profaned them, the plank-road leading to the steamboat landing, alone furnishing the kind of music that responds to passing wheels. In close connection with the village, and flanking it on the east, looms up the Military Post, including Benicia Barracks, the Arsenal buildings and greatly embellished grounds, the magazine, hospital, store-houses, etc. These occupy the point fronting on Suisun bay, and overlooking Martinez on the opposite shore.

As early as in 1844, this peninsula had attracted the attention of our highly-esteemed fellow citizen, Señor Don M. G. Vallejo, a native of Monterey, who soon became the possessor of its territory, as is shown by the grant from the Mexican Government, (referred to in another part of this work.)

It was in the fall of this year, 1844, that Henry Clay was defeated, and James K. Polk elected President of the United States. Upon this fact hinged the momentous issue of the annexation of Texas, and the consequent war with Mexico in 1846-7, one of the results of which was the conquest of California, and its absorption by the United States, under the treaty concluded at Guadalupe Hidalgo, on the 2d of February, 1848.

Among the irregular proceedings in California during the war with Mexico, was the raising of the Bear Flag, by Capt. Granville Swift and his party, of whom Dr. Robert Semple was lieutenant, and the co-operation with them of Col. John C. Fremont, in the surprise and capture of Sonoma. They took Gen. Vallejo prisoner, and sent him in charge of Dr. Semple on a launch up to Sutter's Fort, where Gen. J. A. Sutter was in command, as well as supplying stores and war materials to Fremont. On the way up, the vessel necessarily passed through the Straits of Carquinez, which were then seen for the first time by Dr. Semple. This was in June, 1846. General Vallejo remained a prisoner at Sutter's Fort about a week, when he was released by Commodore Stockton (Governor of the conquered territory), on his parol of honor, and Dr. Semple accompanied him back to Sonoma. Passing through the Straits again on their return, Dr. Semple became greatly impressed with the advantages here presented for the location of a city, which he explained to the General, who had been so kindly treated, that he not only ceased from opposing, but became friendly to the invaders of his native State, and to encourage them to come within and settle it, not long afterwards donated to Dr. Semple the site which had impressed him so favorably.



In pursuance of this agreement the site was surveyed by Jasper O'Farrell and Lieutenant Warner, and the plat of this survey became substantially the map of Benicia. At that date no habitation of man adorned or disfigured the face of the land, which was absolutely in a state of nature, a luxuriant growth of wild oats holding undisputed sway over its undulating and treeless hills.

And now commences the story of its early times. About the last of June, Mr. William I. Tustin, a native of Virginia, subsequently a resident of Illinois, whence he had emigrated to California, and was sojourning at Sonoma, having heard that a town was being laid out on the Straits, came with his wife and son, a lad of four years, to take up his residence in the newly surveyed place. These constituted the first man, first woman and first child of the white race that ever settled and lived in Benicia. It is probable that the aboriginal Indians may have some time preceded them, but there was nothing to indicate it. They found nothing but the surveyor's stakes, and no human being in sight, save the surveying party just going away over the hills towards Suisun Valley, having completed their labors for the time being. This family of three camped a few days among the wild oats, until the arrival of Dr. Semp'le with a cargo of lumber which he had brought in a brig from Bodega. Having made arrangements with the Doctor for two lots on which to build, Tustin dug a well and commenced making "adobes."

In making his adobes, Mr. Tustin had the assistance of a new comer, a well educated and worthy young man named Charles L. Benedict, who was provided with unusually large feet, and who remarked that he never knew before what they were good for. He speculated on the prospect of some day becoming an old man, and narrating to his grandchildren this exploit of his youth, the honor of tramping in the mud to make adobes for the first house ever built in Benicia. This house, now nearly thirty years old, still stands with its thick walls in a good state of preservation, and constitutes part of the residence of Jerry O'Donnell.

The second house built was a one-story and attic frame, put up for and occupied by Dr. Semple himself. This house became the scene of some of the most interesting transactions of those early days. After passing through several hands, and being now greatly improved, it belongs to Mrs. J. W. Jones, and is occupied by George A. Hastings and family. It was my residence in 1849-50.

The third house was an adobe built by Benjamin McDonald, and first occupied by Capt. E. H. Von Pfister as a store, subsequently by the firm of Ricker & Evans. This is also in a good state of preservation, and is now occupied as a residence.

Quite a number of houses were built in the Fall of 1847, and families came in and settled. Among these were Major Stephen Cooper, bringing

with him a load of cabbages from Napa, Mr. Landy Alford, Mr. Nathan Barbour, their respective families, and others.

About this time the settlement of Yerba Buena having adopted the name of San Francisco, and becoming known thereby, the name of Dr. Semple's town which at first had been called Francesca, was changed to Benicia, to avoid complications. This name was given as required by the original conveyance from General Vallejo, and in compliment to his wife, Francesca Benicia Felipsa Carrillo, daughter of one of the influential families of this department. The signification of the name is blessed!

In August or September, 1847, Capt. E. H. Von Pfister, a native of New York City, who had been in the habit of trading on this coast, arrived from Honolulu, bringing with him a stock of goods, which he opened and displayed in the adobe store just spoken of. This being 25x40, was commodious enough to constitute the rendezvous of the whole town by day, and to accommodate everybody in want of lodgings by night. The Captain being one of the jovial and hospitable sort, everybody was at home in his presence or under his roof.

Major Cooper's family occupied the house which had been built for Dr. Semple, and furnished board to quite a number of the Captain's lodgers. A year or two later, the Major kept a real Hotel.

About Christmas, 1847, the Major's eldest daughter, Miss Frances Cooper, was married to Dr. Semple, ex-Gov. L. W. Boggs, formerly of Missouri, but then Alcalde of Sonoma, officiating. The Governor made the journey from Sonoma to Benicia expressly to perform the ceremony.

As this was the first marriage ever celebrated in the place, the boys determined to honor the event with all the *eclat* possible. They found in Capt. Von Pfister's stock of goods a lot of white linen pants, and a dozen blue cloth dress coats with brass buttons, and of most approved swallow tail cut. The following are the names of the parties who decked themselves in a suit of this kind for the occasion, viz.: Landy Alford, Wm. Bryant, David A. Davis, Benj. Forbush, Charles S. Hand, Edward Higgins, F. S. Holland, Henry Matthews, Benj. McDonald, Wm. Russell, Geo. Stevens and Wm. Watson.

These twelve good and true men, having first imbibed some good "old rye," the generous beverage of that day, which the Captain had first brought out by the decanter, but as that did not suffice, then by the bucketful, and being thus fortified in the inner man against the overpowering bashfulness that is generally experienced when faultlessly attired in store clothes, marched in procession up to Major Cooper's mansion, and were ushered into the august presence of the bridal party, and it is doubtful if ever on any similar occasion heartier congratulations were extended or reciprocated than on this.

Twenty-nine years later the hearty old Captain who was an eye-witness

of the scene, relates the event with as much gusto as if it had occurred but yesterday. He alone of all that company, still resides in Benicia.

The second marriage, that of Mr. Benjamin McDonald with a daughter of Landy Alford, was solemnized by Major Cooper, who in January, 1848, had been appointed Alcalde by General Mason.

Some years previous to this date, the peninsula had been visited by a restless native of Yankee land, who recognizing the advantages of the position conceived that some day he would come again, possess himself of the land and perhaps found a city upon the Straits, whereby to make himself great, and perhaps perpetuate his name. At a subsequent visit, about this time, late in 1847, or early in 1848, to carry his design into effect, he found he was too late, the chivalrous son of Kentucky having anticipated him and gained the prize. In full faith, however, of the future greatness of the place, he obtained a number of its vacant lots, determined to share in the development then so confidently looked for, but died ere he saw any likelihood of his dreams being realized. On Cemetery Hill his resting-place is marked by a plain, white marble monumental shaft, bearing this inscription:—

The Mountaineer's Grave,

Here he sleeps, near the Western Ocean's wave!

MILES M. GOODYEAR,

Born in New Haven, Conn., February 24, 1818.

Died in California, November 12, 1849.

Selected as his future home, Benicia, where he wished to live, and to be buried at his death.

Dr. Semple was one of the remarkable men of his day and generation. When standing erect he was about seven feet in height, and being rather spare in figure did not impress one as being well proportioned. His hands and feet were large, as well as his mouth, which was seldom untenanted by a chew of his favorite tobacco. He was so long limbed that when astride of a mustang or mule, his feet nearly reached to the ground (within six inches), rendering it necessary for him to attach his spurs to the calves of his boots instead of to his heels. From having to stoop so much when entering or leaving doors of ordinary dimensions, his form was somewhat bent, and it seemed necessary for him not to stand upright, in order the more conveniently to carry on conversation with his fellow-men. In temperament he was sanguine and impulsive, in disposition kind and considerate, but quite determined to have his own way, in judgment rather erratic, and disinclined to accept the counsel or advice of others, feeling convinced that he knew better than they. Some illustrations of these characteristics may possibly appear in the course of this narrative.

It is related of him that a few weeks after his marriage, business called



him to Monterey. Crossing the Straits with his horse on the open scow ferry-boat, he left directions with the ferrryman to be on the lookout for his return. After wending his way through San Ramon Valley, San Jose and Salinas, to his destination, in the course of two or three weeks he was back again to where Martinez now stands, but the boat was on the Benicia side, and all the signals he could make failed to induce Captain Davis to venture out against the strong head wind that was blowing, and the Doctor had to sleep on the ground in his blankets. This state of things continued for two days, and on the third the patience and endurance of the Doctor having been tried to the utmost, he considered that something must be done to enable him to reach home. He could not swim, and even if he could, a swim of two or three miles was a hazardous undertaking, so he finally managed to secure two or three pieces of scantling and a plank, with which by the aid of his riata he improvised a raft, on which with a fair wind and tide he set out astride, pushing himself along as best he could. An hour or two later he was discovered by some of the friends on shore, who did not know what to make of the singular looking object arrayed in a bright colored serapa, and holding aloft a signal violently waving. A boat was immediately manned and sent to his relief, and great was the surprise and joy of the men when they found they had rescued the foremost man of the village. His objurgations on account of the apparent neglect to which he had been subjected were rather more emphatic and vehement than classic or polite, but good humor was soon restored, congratulations extended, jokes cracked, and the Doctor's health drank in something stronger than *water*. In fact the Doctor had *water* enough in getting across. They got up a yarn that he was wading across, which made him mad.

A year or two later, the doctor had his scow ferry boat worked by horse-power, having fortunately come into possession of two such machines, for which there was no other use.

Four years latter, when Capt. O. C. Coffin put on the steam ferry boat "Ion," which could go against wind and tide, the Dr. was heard to apostrophise steam, and sing in praise of Fulton, who had first succeeded in harnessing it to such use.

Hitherto the immigration into California has been attracted by the fact that it was a new country, just coming under the jurisdiction of the United States and likely soon to become a part of its territory. It was known to have some characteristics of climate peculiarly its own, on the whole rather pleasant, and it apparently offered the opportunity for that free and easy out-door life so fascinating to frontiersmen. To the vivid imagination, the land of the setting sun was some degrees nearer paradise than any in the same latitude on the continent, and doubtless it would gradually have developed into an ordinarily prosperous and inviting country. But what might have been is not in order to discuss. The turning point in its destiny had now been reached.



Simultaneously with the signing of the treaty at Guadalupe Hildalgo, in February, 1848, occurred that wonderful discovery near Sutter's Mill at Coloma, which soon afterward electrified the nation, set the whole world in motion, and has since been the means of adding a thousand millions to the gold and silver treasures of the earth. It was a month or two before the incredulity of Californians could be overcome, and their belief in the reality of the discovery assured.

Early in April, the men of Benicia who usually congregated at Von Pfister's rendezvous, were sitting there discussing the future prospects of the country under its new ownership, and the conversation turned upon coal mines, and the great advantage that would result from their discovery, which was much hoped for. They little dreamed that within 25 miles of them, among the foot-hills near Mt. Diablo, the "Black Diamond" mines were awaiting the prying eyes of the prospector. During the conversation, a man named Bennett, who had been engaged with John W. Marshall, at Coloma, in building a mill for Gen'l Sutter, and who was on his way to Monterey, listened quietly for some time, and finally said that something better than a coal mine had been discovered where he had been at work, something which was believed to be gold, and General Sutter had paid his expenses to Monterey to see Gen'l Mason, and have some specimens that he had with him tested, no acid being obtainable at Sutter's Fort. He then displayed about four ounces in small pieces such as had been discovered when the water was first applied to turn the mill. Of course this display produced a profound impression, and much difference of opinion was expressed, Dr. Semple declaring that he would give more for a good coal mine than all the gold mines that were likely to be discovered.

Bennett went on his journey, and had not been gone more than 5 or 6 days when a number of Mormons came along with quantities of the shining dust, fully convinced it was gold. Sam Brannan, who had been up to Sutter's Mill to learn the truth of the gold discovery, stopped at Benicia on his return to the Bay, said to Von Pfister: "Come, Von, break up here and go in copartnership with me, and we will establish a business near this new gold mine." Von Pfister did so, put all his goods on Dr. Semple's ferry boat, hoisted a sail, made the trip to Sacramento (then known as the "embareadero"), and in due time arrived at Coloma. On the return of the ferry boat to Martinez after an absence of two weeks, there were 40 or 50 wagons waiting to cross the straits on their way to the new El Dorado.

Von Pfister continued in business with Brannan until October, when he sold out to another partner of Brannan's at Sutter's Fort, named Stout being moved thereto by grief at the loss of his brother who had just arrived from Honolulu, and who was inhumanly murdered by an entire stranger on the night of his arrival, before Von Pfister, who was temporarily absent had the opportunity of seeing him. The murderer fled, and Von Pfister

pursued, but after an unavailing search of nearly a year he finally gave up the chase and returned to Benicia, where for the last quarter of a century he has constantly resided; sometimes filling offices of honor if not of profit.

On the night of Sam Brannan's arrival at Benicia a high tide had drifted Dr. Semple's ferry boat some 200 or 300 yards upon the *tule*, and leaving her high and not exactly dry, and disappointing our friend Tustin, who being engaged getting out lumber for Thos. O. Larkin, was anxious to get back to the redwoods, which he had temporarily left for a day or two to look after his family at Benicia. So he built him a raft of tule reeds some 6 or 8 feet long, making it about 2 feet wide, and a foot thick, on which he proposed to make the crossing. His friends remonstrated with him and tried to dissuade him from going, but to no purpose. Go he would, and so with an old shirt for a sail, and a high wind blowing, he set out. The tide took him down about two miles to Dillon's point, then it turned, drifting him the other way, and by the aid of the wind, notwithstanding his frail bark after getting saturated, bent double under his weight, he finally got across and landed in a mud flat, where he met a man who wanted to cross over to Benicia, and who asked him if he might have his raft. He told him yes, but doubted if it would be of much use to him. However the gift was accepted and the man had a very hard time getting over, for the tide took him some distance up Suisun bay, and it was a day or two before he was rescued, in a forlorn and nearly starved condition. Friend Tustin (now a successful windmill builder in San Francisco) has since attained to aldermanic proportions, quite unsuited to the repetition of his rash experiment.

The natural effect upon Benicia, of this gold discovery and excitement, was to draw away from it its male population, leaving some twelve or fifteen families of women and children only. In common with all other settlements near the bay and the sea, it was neglected for the superior attractions offered by the gold placers. Towards the end of the year, Dr. Semple realizing that the fame of the gold discovery had now gone abroad over the whole earth and foreseeing that there would be a great immigration into the State, mostly of course by sea, and that sooner than he had anticipated his opportunity to found and establish an important commercial city would be presented, began to cast about for the means and appliances to aid him in realizing his dream. During the winter of 1848-9 he became acquainted with Bethuel Phelps, with whom he made a bargain for the erection of the needed improvements.

As a further step in the way of progress, he formed a copartnership with Wm. Robinson, John S. Bradford, and L. B. Mizner, under the firm name of Semple, Robinson & Co., for the transaction of general business. This firm purchased the Chilian bark "Confederacion," with an assorted cargo of East India goods, and about the 1st of March, 1849, she sailed up to Benicia and was moored along side the bank to be used as a landing place in lieu of a

wharf. She was dismantled and afterwards known as the "old hulk," and most of her cargo was transferred to the mines. To facilitate access to and from the upland, the firm laid down, across the tule, a large number of boxes of tobacco, the market already being so glutted with the article as to render it comparatively valueless. The firm were so well pleased with their business that within the year they built a substantial two-story warehouse for its accommodation, a short distance from the landing. Subsequently, however, as the town began to grow and competition became active, the members found attractions in other vocations. Dr. Semple was elected delegate from Benicia to the Convention which framed the State Constitution, and was President of the Convention, the labors of which were completed on the 13th of October. Bradford was elected to the Senate, and served Solano county in the first session of the Legislature at San Jose in 1850. He subsequently returned to Illinois and became Mayor of Springfield. Robinson went to Shasta county and was elected County Judge. He afterwards joined the fortunes of Gen. Flores in South America. In September, '49, Mizner and S. K. Nurse started a 4-mule stage or mud-wagon, making tri-weekly trips from Benicia to Sacramento, connecting with San Francisco by sloop. This continued a month or two until the arrival of steamers from the East to be put on the Sacramento river, when they hauled off their stage "in double quick," as Nurse expresses it, and sold their mules. Nurse has lived in Denver since 1854, and has been Postmaster most of the time. Mizner became a lawyer and removed to San Francisco, but some ten years since returned to Benicia, where he now resides. He was State Senator for Solano county in the session of 1871.

Bethuel Phelps was active in the performance of his contract, and during 1849-50 a large number of dwellings and stores were erected, being occupied before finished and ready. In fact the demand for houses was greater than the supply. With lumber ranging from \$300 to \$600 per thousand, sometimes more, and carpenters' wages at \$16 to \$20 per day, it is not very surprising that complaint should have been made of slow progress in building. So the firm of Henry D. Cooke and Wm. M. Stewart, who were somehow concerned in the sale of the bark "Confederacion" and her cargo to Dr. Semple, became interested in Benicia, and contributed largely to its development. Of their agency something may be said after mentioning others, whose influence was brought to bear in advance of them.

Among the passengers on the bark "Confederacion," from Saucelito to Benicia, were Gen. Persifer F. Smith, U. S. A., with some of his staff, and Mr. C. E. Wetmore and wife, who had been in San Francisco since July, 1848. Mr. Wetmore had purchased the house heretofore mentioned as the first frame built for Dr. Semple, and had come with his family to settle. Gen. Smith was so convinced of the importance of the point that he immediately entered into negotiation with Semple, the result of which was that



the portion of the town site bordering on Suisun bay was secured for the Government as a Military Reservation, on which have since been erected Benicia Arsenal, Benicia Barracks, magazines, hospital, Quartermaster's store houses, etc., and many troops have from time to time been stationed here.

Com. Thomas Ap. Catesby Jones, U. S. N., had preceded Gen. Smith a few weeks, having taken up to Benicia the first Government vessel that ever entered the straits, the U. S. store ship "Southampton." In honor of her the shoal water space on the north side of the straits and just west of Benicia was called Southampton bay, and is known as such to this day. Special reasons, varying very much from one another, have been given for conferring this name. Com. Jones was enthusiastic in his admiration of the site—the harbor and surroundings—and predicted that the commercial emporium of the coast would here be established. Being in command of the fleet, he had the vessels severally brought up and anchored in the harbor for the benefit of the fresh water. The 74-gun ship "Ohio," then the largest ship in the navy, the frigate "Savannah," the "Congress," the "Preble," the "Falmouth," the "Vandalia," and the transport "Fredonia," were among them. The propeller "Massachusetts" was kept moving on frequent trips between Benicia and San Francisco.

After the establishment of the military post, the French ship "Julie" was sent up with stores and moored along side the bank near where Benicia Arsenal now stands. Col. Silas Casey, U. S. A., the first commander of the post, was quartered on board this old hulk from the 1st of May for some five months with his family, until quarters were erected for them on shore. The ribs of this vessel may be seen to this day at low tide, where she finally sunk at her moorings. Col. Casey had arrived on the ship "Iowa," commanded by Capt. John Deming, and having on board Gen. Riley and staff, two companies of the 2d Infantry, and other troops from Monterey. Gen. Riley located the Arsenal.

The very favorable opinion expressed, followed by really substantial movements on the part of such men as Com. Jones, Gen. Smith, Gen. Riley, and other Government officers, naturally had the effect of inducing a portion of the immigration then coming into the State to locate at Benicia. Among the earliest was the Rev. S. Woodbridge, by whose instrumentality a Presbyterian Church was organized on the 10th of April, which is claimed to have been the first Protestant church ever founded in California. Among its original members were Prof. Shepherd, Col. S. Casey, Mr. C. E. Wetmore, and Mr. O. P. Evans. Mr. Woodbridge also opened and kept a day school, and kept the records of the township. In August a school house was built which was used on Sundays for divine service, under his ministrations, for some two years thereafter. This modest little building, little used of late years, having been superseded by more pretentious edifices, is still standing,



a monument of the foresight displayed by the founders of the town regarding the educational needs of the hoped-for rising generation. The church edifice, which took its place in 1851, stood for about 20 years, when it was taken down and put to other use, the society having disbanded and its members scattered. Dr. Woodbridge is now pastor of a church lately built for and named after him in this city near the Mission Dolores.

In April W. S. Ricker and O. P. Evans started a bakery and country store in the adobe that had been occupied first by Von Pfister. Ricker was the jovial and Evans the serious man of the firm. Profits were large, but their small establishment was six months afterwards overshadowed by the large stocks introduced by the adventurous immigrants that then began to flock in by way of the sea. Evans was gathered to his fathers more than 20 years ago. Whether Ricker still survives is unknown.

In May the large adobe building known as the California Hotel was erected. Capt. Von Pfister rented it at \$500 per month, and kept it a year, when he sold out to Capt. Winn. Subsequently it was kept by Major Cooper, father-in-law of Dr. Semple. During a part of this time, owing to the great drought of 1850-51, there was a scarcity of such food as is usually provided at hotel tables. Col. Casey one day asked Mr. Woodbridge about the fare, and his reply was that they had beef and molasses for breakfast and molasses and beef for dinner. In those days onions were \$2 per pound. Major Cooper is still living at Colusa, a well preserved man, who will complete his 80th year in March next. For the last 20 years this establishment has been owned and occupied by Mr. John Rueger and family, and known as the Benicia Brewery.

Before Col. Casey got his family into quarters on shore in the summer of 1849, he was ordered in command of an expedition for the first exploration ever made for a railroad route across the Sierra Nevada. The surveying party, when about 70 miles from the valley of the Sacramento, in the mountains, were attacked by the Pitt River Indians, and the Engineer officer in charge, Capt. Warner, was killed. This fact, connected with the ravages of fever and scurvy, forced a return of the party without fully accomplishing its object. Col. Casey lay twenty-five days in the mountains sick with a fever, and all but two, in a party of thirty-five, were taken sick. Gen. Casey is still living at a ripe old age in Brooklyn, New York, on the retired list. His son, Commander Casey, U. S. N., is stationed in San Francisco.

In May F. W. Pettygrove and A. E. Wilson formed a co-partnership for the transaction of a general business. They built a frame hotel, which they called the Benicia House. They brought with them from Oregon nine frame buildings, which were erected in different parts of the town, and some stand to this day.

On the 7th of June the writer of this sketch, with his young wife, came

upon the scene. The women who ventured to come to California in those days were few in number, but courageous in spirit. We had left Baltimore on the last of January; New York the 15th of March; crossed the Isthmus about the 29th; and after a detention of seven weeks in Panama, embarked on board the good steamship Panama, Captain Bailey, on the 17th of May, on her first trip to San Francisco, which was accomplished in seventeen days, calling only at San Diego on the 1st of June. Among our fellow passengers were Mrs. Fremont and her daughter Lilly, Mrs. Alfred De Witt, Mrs. Robert Allen (now living in San Francisco, Hon. Wm. M. Gwinn, John B. Weller, Col. Joseph Hooker, Lieut. Derby (afterwards known as Squibob and John Phenix), John Bensley, Hall McAllister, F. F. Low, afterwards Governor of this State, S. W. Holladay, Dr. S. R. Harris, and other well known citizens that have since attained distinction.

Having come to California at the suggestion of my brother-in-law, Mr. C. E. Wetmore, and on arrival finding him located at Benicia, I was induced to join him there. We formed a co-partnership for the transaction of a general business, and soon after commenced the erection of a frame building, 30x60 feet, for a store and warehouse none too large for the extensive stock of goods afloat for us on several vessels then on their way around Cape Horn, and bound for the land of gold.

With little or no previous experience as business manager (I had thus far been principally a thorough accountant), and with others to provide for, we could not see the way clear to locate in San Francisco; and as it really seemed an open question which place should take the precedence and become the commercial center, it was comparatively easy to make up our minds to settle in the one that apparently possessed the most attractions or prospective merits, and so our lots were cast in Benicia.

For ten or fifteen years I was satisfied of the correctness of this choice, and on every return from a temporary visit to San Francisco, or elsewhere, regarded Benicia as a charming and blessed place, little short of Paradise. Since then, however, the thought has sometimes occurred that our location there was a mistake; but as that is a problem that may not be solved in this life, the attempt will not be made. It is useless to speculate on 'what might have been;' and therefore as our living there has had its influence in various ways and upon others, probably the wisest conclusion is that 'it was all for the best.'

Sometime in the summer of 1849, Dr. W. F. Peabody established a hospital, and soon secured a large and paying patronage from returning miners. After a residence of fifteen years Dr. Peabody located elsewhere, and has since established himself in San Francisco. [I am happy to say he is a member of the C. U., &c.] His former associate in the hospital, Mr. J. W. Jones, has remained in Benicia to this day, a well known business man, and

prominent citizen. In July and August ships began to arrive in numbers, bringing adventurers, some of whom, with their stocks of goods, thought best to locate in Benicia. Among these were Webb, Beveridge, and Miller, and McConkey & Hall, with goods from Baltimore (per "Greyhound," and "Jane Parker"), brought upon brig "Josephine," and bark "Hebe," and J. Hatch & Co., who had come from Boston on the "Edward Everett."

The ship "Leonore," which arrived in Benicia on the 8th July, brought the first side-wheel steamer ever built in California. It was framed at the East, put together at Benicia, and finished about the middle of August. They called her the "New England," but her machinery proved to be so powerfully weak as to render her practically useless for a steamboat. During the summer three other small steamboats were built here, called respectively the "Linda," the "Edward Everett," and the "Phenix." They made a few trips up the Sacramento river, but their day was short, for late in October (the 26th and 28th, if I mistake not), the propellers "Hartford," and "McKinn," commencing running for passengers and freight on the route between San Francisco and Sacramento, via Benicia. These were the first sea-going steamers to make this trip. They were succeeded by the side-wheel steamer "Senator," which commenced her trips on the 3d day of November, charging \$30 fare from San Francisco to Sacramento, and \$15 from Benicia to either place. The "Senator" is said to have earned millions of dollars in a few years. And now, 27 years later, she is still running as a sea-going steamship.

Later in November the little iron steamer "Mint" commenced making trips to Stockton. She was brought out on deck of ship "Samoset," in September.

On his return from Monterey, where he had presided over the Constitutional Convention, in the winter of 1849-50, Dr. Semple became impressed with the idea that steam-boating must be a profitable business, and accordingly he determined to build one on correct principles, that should astonish the natives, but all lookers on. So far as the hull was concerned, this was easily managed, as material was readily obtained. His favorite idea that her bow must be made duck-breasted, was carried into effect; and when launched her appearance on the water was rather attractive. But it was when the machinery was to be applied that the "true inwardness" of the Doctor came to the surface. Steam-engines were not so plenty in those days as in these, a quarter century later; and so as two could not be had that were exactly alike, he obtained two of different make, one being fully twice as large as the other. When the absurdity of furnishing the boat with engines varying so greatly in power was pointed out to the Doctor, his genius rose equal to the occasion. He could manage that. But how? asked the practical, common sense, incredulous observer. Why, by gearing, of course. With cog-wheels, and other appliances, we'll gear up the one



engine, so as to equalize its power with that of the other. In spite of remonstrance, argument, ridicule, and other elements of opposition, this idea was adhered to, and the natural result followed as a matter of course. On her first trip she was at the mercy of the current and the wind. The strong engine overpowered the weaker one, giving her a forward movement in the direction of a great circle, the tendency being to bring her round to the point started from. However, by the help of the tide and other favoring circumstances, they managed to reach Colusa with her, for which place she was named. Her first trip, though, proved to be her last as a steamboat. The engines had to be disposed of, and she was converted into a barge. Her builder, Mr. F. P. Burch, with his family, still resides in Benicia; and her engineer, Mr. R. B. Norman, has for many years been a well known citizen of Sacramento.

The last exploit of Dr. Semple's that occurs to me was his building a house for the use of his family, with an inverted roof—so that what is usually the peak or highest part, was in this instance the lowest, and the roof slanted upwards towards the eaves, instead of downwards, there being but one eave trough, and that in the middle of the roof. What his reasons were for this peculiar construction may have been explained at the time, but are not now remembered. Some are sarcastic enough to say it was from motives of economy in the matter of eave trough.

Among the many early settlers in Benicia was Capt. John Walsh, whose family arrived from Valparaiso in November, 1849, occupying at once the house he had built for them. The captain is a well known citizen, whose fame has gone all over those parts of the world that are visited by ships. He is a privileged character, of whom many amusing incidents are related, some of which he tells at his own expense. Although old and infirm, being now in his eightieth year, and bereft of kindred, who have all preceded him in their flight to the spirit land, he retains much of his original vivacity, and is generally ready to provoke a smile from any visitor by his ready wit. He is able to attend to his duties as Custom-house Inspector, which are performed satisfactorily to the Department. A favorite grandson is the only relative living near him, or in California.

Dr. Semple and his associates, Larkin, Phelps, Stewart, and Cooke, did much to improve Benicia, and make it attractive; and they spared no pains in publishing to the world its advantages, but they failed lamentably in the very particular most necessary to make their enterprise a success. They placed too great a valuation upon their lots, and by demanding high prices drove away from them the very persons they should have induced by liberal terms to settle and build up the town. This was unjust to those that had already settled, and who hoped to see others coming in and promoting its substantial growth. But so convinced was the Doctor that the town *must* develop into a great city, and that nothing could prevent it, that





*L. Cornell Frisbie*



nothing could prevent it, that he would listen to no suggestions on this head. On several occasions men wanting to buy property gave up the idea on account of the terms. Had each one of them been presented with a lot, the object of the proprietors might have been accomplished, and themselves rewarded by prosperity and affluence, instead of reaping the disappointment which followed.

A notable instance of their fatuity occurred immediately after the great fire of 4th May, 1851, which destroyed the entire business portion of the city of San Francisco. A large number of her influential merchants were so disheartened at the repeated misfortunes thus befalling them that they were ready and anxious at once to transfer their business to Benicia, and a delegation waited on its proprietors to see on what terms they would be received and provided for. The terms were too exacting; the application failed, and the opportunity was lost—absolutely thrown away. The applicants were angered at their failure, and embittered against Benicia, a feeling which survives measurably to this day—while the *bona fide* settlers of Benicia, who would have welcomed their San Francisco brethren, were disgusted with the cupidity and bad management of its founders.

As another illustration of events in these days, it should not be forgotten that Capt. Lyon, who had been sent out to punish the Indians that were hostile and troublesome, came very near being killed by the awkwardness of some of his own men, a bullet from one of them passing through his hat from back to front. In mentioning it to General Riley on his return, and exhibiting the hat, he claimed that that shot did not come from an enemy. The General's reply was, it certainly did not come from a friend. This brave officer was afterwards, during the war of the Rebellion, the lamented General Lyon, who fell at the battle of Lexington, Missouri, in August, 1861.

Among the immigrants of 1849, were some old farmers from the East, to whom the alternation of the wet and dry seasons appeared to present insuperable objections to the idea of this ever being an agricultural country. The laws of nature to which they had been accustomed were here set at defiance, and their conclusion was that cultivation of the ground would be useless in the absence of summer showers. Yet here on these rolling and dry hills waved the luxurious, almost rank growth of wild oats, four or five feet in height. The soil being adobe, and two or three feet in thickness, has since nullified the opinions of these good old farmers, and still persists in yielding fine crops of grain, notwithstanding fifteen years of cultivation.

In the remarkably wet winter of 1849-50, it was no easy task to walk on this adobe ground where traveled upon, without being in danger of losing a boot when drawing one's feet out of the mud, and so it came to pass that long rubber boots were at a premium.

As an offset the following winter, that of 1850-51, to which this present one of 1876-77 bears a close resemblance, was correspondingly dry, and rubber boots proved a bad speculation.

The Constitution of the State of California, which had been framed by the Convention at Monterey, in October, was adopted by the people at an election held on the 13th November, 1849, and in accordance with its provisions the first Legislature met in January, 1850, at the Pueblo de San Jose, the first Capital of the State. The first two cities incorporated by this body were Monterey and Benicia, both on the same day, the 27th of March, 1850. Some days afterwards, San Jose, Sacramento, Stockton and Los Angeles were incorporated. San Francisco followed, on the 15th day of April.

Under its charter, Benicia had nine Mayors, as follows:

- Capt. James Kearny, from May 1850, to May, 1851.
- Dr. W. F. Peabody, from May, 1851, to May, 1852.
- Capt. D. M. Fraser, from May, 1852, to May, 1853.
- Capt. Alex. Riddell, from May, 1853, to May, 1854.
- Charles French, from May, 1854, to November, 1855.
- W. S. Wells, Acting from November, 1855, to May, 1856.
- J. M. Neville, from May, 1856, to May, 1857.
- T. B. Storer, from May, 1857, to May, 1858.
- Charles Alison, from May, 1858, to May, 1859.

The charter was amended in 1851 and 1854, and repealed in 1859, since which time the government of the city has been vested in a Board of Trustees. The city charter was found to be an expensive luxury, by means of which the city debt was incurred little short of \$100,000 in 1859. This has since been reduced, until at the present time an arrangement has just been effected by which it can all be redeemed for the sum of \$6,000, and the taxpayers breathe freer.

Mayors Kearny, Fraser, Riddell and French died some years since. Mayors Peabody, Wells, Neville and Alison are residents of San Francisco, and Mayor Storer lives in Virginia City.

A. J. Bryant, who was City Marshal of Benicia in 1854, is now Mayor of San Francisco.

At the same first session of the Legislature, Benicia was named the county seat of Solano county, and so continued for eight years, when it was superseded in 1858 by the present county seat, Fairfield.

The first Sheriff of the county was B. C. Whitman, afterwards Clerk of the Common Council, subsequently a leading lawyer in Benicia, and now an ex-Judge of the Supreme Court in the State of Nevada. The second Sheriff was Paul Shirley, who held the office several years. He now resides on the other side of the Straits, in Martinez, and is State Senator from Contra Costa county.

The fourth session of the Legislature was held in Benicia early in 1853, and on the 18th of May of that year an Act was passed making it the *permanent* seat of Government, but as no appropriation was made for the



erection of public buildings, and the Capital in those days was notoriously on wheels, it was not a difficult matter at the fifth session to move it again, and so on the 1st day of March, 1854, the Legislature and attaches, furniture and all, left Benicia on the steamer Antelope for Sacramento, where the Capital has since remained with some show of permanence. This movement was brought about by a combination between the workers for Sacramento and the friends of the lamented David C. Broderick, who desired and expected thereby to be elected to the United States Senate, but who was disappointed in that expectation, although in a subsequent Legislature he was successful. Broderick was absent from Benicia when the vote was taken on the removal question, and there was no telegraphic communication then with San Francisco. If there had been, the result probably would have been different. Either Broderick would have been elected first, or the Capital would have remained at Benicia. On such slender threads does the fate of communities sometimes depend.

In those palmy days Benicia boasted among its residents, some of the prominent and distinguished men of the State, among whom may be mentioned Judges S. C. Hastings, John Currey, S. F. Reynolds, E. W. McKinstry, and others, who have since been absorbed by the commercial metropolis.

The Masonic Order made an early start in Benicia. Benicia Lodge, No. 5, was formed in 1850. Masonic Hall was built in 1850, and is a substantial edifice to this day. The lower floor was occupied as the Court House, County Clerk and Recorder's office until the State House was built in 1852. The State House became the Court House until 1859, when on account of the removal of the County Seat, it became the property of the Board of Education, and has ever since been occupied as the Public School, one of the most commodious and substantial in the State, and being of brick is likely to last for several generations. The attendance is large.

The Odd Fellows organized somewhat later than the Masons, but have flourished so successfully as to possess a fine brick edifice of their own which affords them most desirable and satisfactory accommodations. They are known as Solano Lodge, No. 22.

Several newspaper enterprises have from time to time been established in Benicia, but none of them now remain. The Benicia Gazette was published in 1851, by St. Clair, Pinkham & Co. A bound volume of this publication is in the possession of the Society of California Pioneers. The Benicia Vedette was published by ——— Mathewson in 1853. The Solano County Herald commenced its publication in November, 1855, and three years afterwards was moved to Suisun, where it still flourishes under the altered name of the Solano Republican. The "Pacific Churchman" was published here in 1869-70, since which time it has been established in San Francisco. The "Benicia Tribune" was published by R. D. Hopkins in 1872-73; since then it has been transferred to Dixon, where it still flourishes as the Dixon

Tribune. There was a Benicia Sentinel at one time, but it was a short-lived affair.

In 1850-51 when it was difficult for masters of vessels to retain their crews, on account of their disposition to desert to the gold fields, and try their hands at digging or mining, as many as 60 or 70 ships were to be seen at anchor in Benicia harbor, most of them loaded with lumber, which became a drug in the market and was offered for freight and charges. After the 4th of May fire in San Francisco this state of the lumber market was remedied, and the ships gradually withdrawn.

The P. M. S. S. Co., for whom Alfred Robinson and Geo. W. P. Bissell were agents, established the depot for their shop and supplies at Benicia early in 1850, when their first wharf was built. In 1853 they increased the size of the wharf to its present dimensions, and put up the machinery shops and foundry.

From this time on for 16 years or more the company enjoyed an era of unexampled prosperity, every attempt at opposition helping as much as hindering it. By steady accumulation and the growth of its business its capital was increased from year to year until in 1869 it amounted to not less than ten millions. In 1869 came its first encounter with its great competitor, the Overland Railroad. Up to this time Benicia had been greatly benefited by the location of the company's works, and its liberal disbursements. As long as the company remained at Benicia they were prosperous. Then came a disposition to branch out, to water the stock and provide for the friends of the new management. All this was not so conveniently managed while the works were located at Benicia, so it was determined to move everything to the city. From that time the history of the company shows a series of questionable managements, and a departure from its old prosperous ways. From being worth about \$150 or more per share its stock has fallen to \$20—the present price being about \$24. Benicians remember the periodical visits of the California, the Oregon, the Panama, the Tennessee, the Northener, the Golden Age, St. Louis, Sonora, Golden Gate, Golden City, Sacramento, John L. Stephens and others with regret, that the noble ships which succeed them come not in their place.

The Marysville & Benicia R. R. Co. was incorporated in 1853, with a capital of \$3,000,000; \$10,000 was spent in surveys, by Wm. S. Lewis, Esq., as Chief Engineer, with the celebrated Mr. Catherwood as consulting engineer.

So strongly impressed was Mr. Catherwood of the feasibility of this scheme, that he went to England to present the plan there; and with the aid of a brother of his, who was one of the cashiers in the Bank of England, he raised \$1,000,000, which was one-third of the capital; but on his return to this country from England, went down in the ill-fated steamer "Arctic," off Newfoundland, which put an end to that project, which would materially have advanced the fortunes of Benicia.

This imperfect sketch of the "Early Times in Benicia," cannot properly be brought to a conclusion without a brief reference to the educational and religious movements of the place. To Benicia belongs the honor of having established the first Young Ladies' Seminary in the State, under the auspices of the Protestant churches. In June, 1852, the enterprise was proposed, and immediately enlisted the favor and hearty sympathy of many friends. A Board of Trustees was organized, a suitable building purchased, and the school opened about the 1st of August, with Mrs. S. A. Lord as Principal, and Miss Georgia Allen, and Miss F. A. Allen, as Assistants. The second year Miss J. M. Hudson became Principal, with the same Assistants. The third year, the school became the property of Miss Mary Atkins, whose fame as a teacher has since become part of the educational history of this State. The school became deservedly popular and successful; and its graduates, under Miss Atkins' administration, have since taken rank in society as among the best educated and most cultivated women in our State. After twelve years spent in her high vocation, Miss Atkins sought rest; and in 1866, transferred the school to Rev. C. T. Mills and wife, who kept it up in a high state of efficiency and prosperity, until 1871, when they, having been induced to move to Alameda county, disposed of the school to Rev. Chas. H. Pope, who, during the year that he held it, made some valuable additions and improvements. Since 1873, the school has been under the management of Miss Mary Snell, who, with her sisters, and other accomplished teachers, have maintained its excellent reputation as one of the best schools in the State. In October, 1871, under the auspices of the Rev. Mr. Pope, then Principal, a re-union of graduates and pupils was held in honor of the visit then paid to the institution of its former proprietor, Mrs. Mary Atkins-Lynch, with her husband, the Hon. John Lynch, then U. S. Surveyor-General for the State of Louisiana, and during the past year, Centennial Commissioner for the same State. His duties in that capacity will detain him in Philadelphia until March next, after which time Mr. and Mrs. Lynch will take up their permanent residence in California.

In June next, the Young Ladies' Seminary, of Benicia, will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its foundation. Two of its original Board of Trustees have died — the other seven are still living, and one of them stands before you.

On the 1st of January, 1853, St. Catharine's Academy, under the charge of the Roman Catholic Sisters of St. Dominic, was established at Benicia, having been removed from Monterey to this, as the more eligible location. This school for young ladies has been uniformly well attended, and appears to have enjoyed a satisfactory degree of patronage. Everything about it wears an air of comfort, cheerfulness, and prosperity, and it enjoys an excellent reputation. The grounds are extensive and well cultivated, and the buildings commodious.



In the summer of 1853, the Rev. Charles M. Blake established a boarding school for boys, which a year or two afterwards passed into the hands of Mr. C. J. Flatt, under whose proprietorship it was known as the Collegiate Institute, connected with which some ten years later was a Law School.

In December, 1867, Mr. Flatt disposed of the property to the Pacific Coast Mission, of which the Rev. Dr. Breck was the head, and the school then became the nucleus of what has since grown to be St. Augustine's College, with the history of which this audience should be somewhat familiar. The premises have been greatly enlarged and improved, affording accommodations for one hundred boys, which number, however, has not yet been secured, though the institution well deserves them. Not less than fifty thousand dollars have been expended upon the property, which is in a good state of preservation and cultivation, making it an attractive seat of learning. The college owns fifty acres of land within the city limits, which, in time, must constitute for it a valuable domain. The whole is under the special supervision of Bishop Wingfield, who, with his family, has his Episcopal residence on the premises.

One of the objects of the Pacific Coast Mission was to establish a church school for girls. Accordingly, in June, 1870, the Rev. Dr. Breck purchased a block of land in the vicinity of St. Augustine College, and commenced the erection of the buildings for "St. Mary of the Pacific." A year or two later these were completed, and has ever since constituted the chief ornament of the town. The garden and surroundings of St. Mary's, make it an attractive spot. The school grew and prospered steadily under the fatherly care of Dr. Breck, until his untimely death, which took place on the 30th of March last, at which time the school was so full that the good Doctor had had it in contemplation to put up additional buildings, in case his health was restored. But it was not so to be, for our all-wise Heavenly Father was then pleased to take him to Himself. As a natural consequence of his death, the school has since fallen off some; but is now recovering, and will doubtless soon enter upon a renewed career of prosperity, under the rectorship of the Rev. John H. Babcock, who, with his wife, have just been placed in charge of the establishment by Bishop Wingfield. By former experience and present inclination, Mr. Babcock is well fitted for the position and its various duties.

Reference has already been made to the Presbyterian Church, which was founded here in 1849, and abandoned in 1869, for want of adherents. It flourished until 1861—the first year of the civil war—when it began to decline rapidly on account of dissatisfaction in the congregation at the determined political stand taken by the pastor, who was several times a candidate for office on the unpopular side. Two years before its final abandonment, it was supplanted by the First Congregational society, who built, and still possess, a very comfortable house of worship, with a parsonage attached. The bell in its tower was cast in 1853, at the P. M. S. S. Co's. works, and was in use there until the works were abandoned.



The Methodists maintained an organization for a year or two, while Benicia was the Capital of the State; but thereafter they withdrew from the field, and their insecure little building was blown down and destroyed in a S. E. gale which visited this part of the State, the 1st of January, 1855.

One or two attempts were made in early times to form a Baptist society, but without success.

The Roman Catholics founded their church of St. Dominic in 1851. It has always been sustained liberally by its adherents, and is apparently flourishing. In its tower is a large and very fine-toned bell, equal to some of the best in our city churches. The well-known Father Villarassa is the chief pastor here. A substantial, two-story edifice, has recently been added to the premises, as a home for the Brothers, and a Theological School.

The first regular service of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Benicia was held on Sunday the 24th of September, 1854, in the court room of the City Hall. Major E. D. Townsend, U. S. A., a lay reader appointed by Rt. Rev. Bishop Kip, read the service and a sermon. On Sunday, the 22d of October, the Bishop himself officiated, and administered the Holy Communion. From this time the services were regularly maintained, and a chapel was fitted up in the Masonic Hall early in 1855. On the 13th of February, 1855, a parish was formed under the name of St. Paul's Parish, to which the Bishop gave his approval on the 22d. The Vestry then organized, electing Paul K. Hubbs, Senior Warden; Eugene Van Ness, Junior Warden; the other Vestrymen being John Curry, Joseph Durbrow, C. W. Hayden, J. Howard, and John Taylor. Some of these names must sound familiar here, even at this late day. Col. Van Ness and Col. Hubbs have gone to the eternal world. Gen. Townsend is now Adjutant-General of the United States at Washington, where, also, Mr. C. W. Hayden resides. Judge Curry and Mr. Durbrow are among the honored citizens of San Francisco. Among the others that have since been Wardens and Vestrymen of St. Paul's, may be mentioned the names of Gen. John S. Mason, U. S. A., Hon. E. W. McKinstry, Dr. Robert Murray, Hon. S. F. Reynolds, Capt. F. F. Flint, Dr. Cooledge, Col. J. McAllister.

The first missionary to St. Paul's Church was the Rev. David F. McDonald in 1856. He had then recently been ordained deacon in San Francisco. He is now a D.D.; rector of a church in Dardanelles, Arkansas.

Since his time the church at Benicia has been served with more or less regularity by Rev. E. W. Hager, Rev. James Cameron, Rev. E. G. Perryman, Rev. Dudley Chase, Rev. Henry G. Perry, and Rev. J. L. Breck, D.D. Mr. Cameron was rector from 1860 to 1865, and Dr. Breck from 1868 to 1876. Since the death of Dr. Breck, Bishop Wingfield has accepted and exercised the office of rector.

A church edifice was erected in the fall of 1859, and consecrated in February, 1860. In 1863 it was greatly enlarged and improved by the

addition of transepts, mainly through the liberality and exertion of the Rev. James Cameron, who, at the same time, presented the church with a very acceptable pipe organ, that is still in use. At the same time a parsonage or rectory was built and presented to the church by Col. Julian McAllister, now Senior Warden of the Parish. In 1873, under the administration of Dr. Breck, the church was again enlarged by lengthening the nave, and it is now, in its interior arrangements, one of the best planned and most attractive churches in California. Being attended regularly by the pupils of St. Mary's school and St. Augustine College, and a goodly share of the town's people, the congregations are generally large and the services full of interest, being participated in very heartily. It is quite refreshing to one accustomed to the low murmur of our city congregations to listen to the outspoken responses characteristic of this wide-awake assemblage.

There are many other topics that might properly have been introduced into this sketch and have proven, perhaps, more interesting than those actually touched upon, such as the history of military officers and their operations at the arsenal; the barracks and the Quartermaster's department; the pleasant character of the society that for so many years, during Benicia's palmy days, became a distinguishing feature in its history; the visit of Com. Perry's squadron in 1854, after its voyage around the world and its brilliant achievement in causing the ports of Japan to be opened to our commerce; the many attempts at railroad building that have from time to time been unsuccessfully made and the hopes still entertained of success in the near future; the many fires that have destroyed once valuable property; the founding and maintenance of manufacturing establishments for cement, leather, flour, etc., as well as personal reference to many friends, once residents, now scattered all over California and other parts of the United States; but it is already too long, and this task must be considered completed.

It has cost much time, application, research, labor, and self-denial, but if it shall have afforded entertainment, instruction, and food for thought to you who have so courteously bestowed upon it your attention, it will not be in vain that the sacrifice has been made."

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With reference to the Deed mentioned in the foregoing lecture of Mr Gray, the tenor of it is in a few words: Five miles of land in the Suscol estate was ceded, transferred, and bestowed, freely and spontaneously to Don Thomas O. Larkin and Don Robert Semple, and their heirs and successors, by General Vallejo, as per measurement made by Don Jasper O'Farrell: "Beginning at a stone marked 'R. S.' and running N. 76 degrees W. to a

corner or angle five English miles; from thence in the direction S. 14 degrees W. to an angle one mile, a little more or less; thence following the sinuosities of the bay, of the straits to the place where the measurement commenced, which, altogether, makes an extent of five English miles; following the turn of the bay, the sinuosities of the land, according to the measurement of plan above referred to." To this gift were attached the under-mentioned provisions: "*First*.—The grantees were to bind themselves to found a city to be named Francesca or Benicia, and to divide the land into lots to be disposed of by sale, and establish ferry boats on the Straits of Carquinez. *Second*.—As soon as the city should contain one hundred families a magistrate or municipal authority shall be named. The ferry boats, together with the landing places, shall belong to the town, and their products used for the establishment of public schools. *Third*.—Until such hundred families are established the ferry boats and landings to belong to Robert Semple." The deed was executed on May 19, 1847, before Lilburn W. Boggs, Alcalde of the District of Sonoma.

This transaction afterwards proved invalid, the General, it was held, not having a good title to the lands of Suscol; therefore a new form was gone through to establish the claim of Messrs. Semple and Larkin. Pursuant to an Act of the Legislature of the State of California, entitled "An Act to settle the title of lands in the town and city of Benicia, in the county of Solano, approved February 20, 1866," and in accordance with an Act of Congress, entitled "An Act to quiet the title to certain lands within the corporate limits of the city of Benicia and the town of Santa Cruz, in the State of California, approved July 23, 1866," notice was given to claimants to file their respective claims for lots and parcels of land.

An Act to incorporate the city of Benicia was passed April 24, 1851, bounding the site thus: "And that tract of land lying on the north side of the Straits of Carquinez, as surveyed by Benjamin W. Barlow, Esq., late City Surveyor, and designated by his map now on file in the office of the Clerk of Solano county, the southern boundary shall extend to the middle of the channel of the Straits of Carquinez." Following this the city was divided into two wards. Article two of the Act provides for the election of city officers; article three apportioned their duties and powers; article four, their compensation; article five, the establishment of Recorder's and Justice's Courts. Supplementary to the foregoing, was passed on April 13, 1854, an Act incorporating the city and granting additional powers to the Council; while the water front was ceded to the corporation by Act of the Legislature approved May 3, 1855.

After the survey of the site in 1847 it was laid out in streets and squares, there being twenty lots retained for public uses, besides the City Hall lot and two half blocks for parks, etc. From its start until April 18, 1859, the city was governed by a Mayor and Corporation, when on that date an Act to



repeal the several Acts incorporating the city of Benicia, was approved, and placed the town under the government of Trustees, who were to be elected to serve, thus: The party receiving the highest number of votes was chosen for three years, the second, for two, and the third for one year; and each following year, one Trustee should be elected for three years. A list of the Mayors has been already given, let us now present one of the Trustees: Those called upon to serve during the first term were George H. Riddell, three years, May, 1859; John J. Barry, two years; C. W. Hayden, one year. Thereafter there ensued a yearly election for a term of three years: 1860—C. W. Hayden, G. H. Riddell, J. J. Barry. 1861—S. C. Gray, C. W. Hayden, G. H. Riddell. 1862—T. B. Storer, S. C. Gray, C. W. Hayden. 1863—E. Danforth, T. B. Storer, S. C. Gray. 1864—S. C. Gray, E. Danforth, T. B. Storer, (resigned), C. B. Houghton, (elected). 1865—C. B. Houghton, S. C. Gray, E. Danforth, (resigned), J. Hatch, (elected). 1866—E. H. Von Pfister, C. B. Houghton, S. C. Gray. 1867—J. F. Swain, E. H. Von Pfister, C. B. Houghton. 1868—C. B. Houghton, J. F. Swain, E. H. Von Pfister. 1869—E. H. Von Pfister, C. B. Houghton, J. F. Swain. 1870—J. F. Swain, E. H. Von Pfister, C. B. Houghton. 1871—C. B. Houghton, J. F. Swain, E. H. Von Pfister. 1872—James Flannery, C. B. Houghton, J. F. Swain. 1873—John J. Barry, James Flannery, C. B. Houghton. 1874—C. B. Houghton, J. J. Barry, James Flannery. 1875—J. R. Brown, C. B. Houghton, J. J. Barry. 1876—J. J. Barry, J. R. Brown, C. B. Houghton. 1877—C. B. Houghton, J. J. Barry, J. R. Brown. 1878—D. N. Hastings, C. B. Houghton, John J. Barry. 1879—James Barry, D. N. Hastings, C. B. Houghton.

The office of City Clerk was filled by the following gentlemen: 1850-51—B. D. Hyam and John B. Dow. 1851-54—B. C. Whitman. 1854-56—David F. Beveridge. 1856-57—E. H. Von Pfister. 1857-59—J. W. Kinloch. Since the election of Trustees one of their number has officiated as Clerk until 1878. The City Assessors were: 1850-51—Stephen Cooper. 1851-53—Singleton Vaughn. 1853-54—H. P. Ammons. 1854-55—H. Norton. 1855-56—J. W. Kinloch. 1856-58—Peter Wright. 1858-59—H. Norton. From this year up until 1877, inclusive, the county officials assessed, collected, and disbursed the funds. In 1877 E. H. Von Pfister was elected to the office, a position which he still retains. The City Marshals have been: 1850—John S. Brown. 1851—Beebe Robinson. 1852-53—A. H. Estell. 1854-55—A. J. Bryant. 1856—D. F. Beveridge. 1857-58—Luke Bond. From this period until the year 1872 the city was without a Marshal; in that year Jeremiah O'Donnell was appointed. In 1873 he again held the office. 1874—Patrick McNally. 1875-77—A. J. Glover, and 1878-79—F. P. Weinmann. The City Treasurers have been during that period, respectively: Messrs. D. F. Beveridge, Edward Crocker, R. M. Holladay, John J. Barry, with a long interregnum wherein the County Treasurer performed the duties for the city, when, in 1877, the present



incumbent, John Reuger, was chosen to fill the office. Space will not permit of our entering more fully into the names of the other officers who served Benicia, indeed it has been an arduous task, the tracing these we have enumerated. Suffice it to say that among the City Attorneys we find such well-known names as Leslie and Wells; while her Surveyors were Barlow, Patton, and De Hemmecourt.

Mention has, in a general way, been made of the schools of Benicia. We will now present the reader with a slight sketch of two of the principal seats of learning in the city:

**THE YOUNG LADIES' SEMINARY.**—This school was established in 1852, and was managed by a Board of Trustees for two years and a half. The following named gentlemen served on the Board: Hon. S. Bynam, Hon. S. Cooper, Capt. D. M. Fraser, S. C. Gray, B. W. Mudge, Dr. W. F. Peabody, Capt. J. Walsh, C. E. Wetmore, Rev. S. Woodbridge, E. Crocker, J. W. Jones, D. N. Hastings.

During the latter part of 1854, Miss Mary Atkins became the Principal of the school; but in January, 1855, the proprietorship and sole management passed into her hands.

For nine years she labored successfully to bring the institution up to the highest standard, and when, in 1864, she was compelled to take a season of rest, she rented the Seminary to Miss Lammond, it then having about one hundred and fifty pupils, and an unequalled reputation for giving thorough training and a solid education.

Within a year Miss Atkins returned to her school, and found so few pupils that much of the work of building up had to be done once more. By untiring energy she re-established it, and it took, again, its place as the first-class school of the State.

In 1865, worn by years of unceasing labor, Miss Atkins retired from teaching. She sold the Seminary to Dr. and Mrs. C. T. Mills. They faithfully labored to maintain the high position of the institution, and had six years of uninterrupted success. In 1871 they removed from Benicia to Seminary Park, Alameda county, where they had erected large and well-adapted school buildings.

Rev. Charles H. Pope then took charge of the Benicia Seminary, a trust which he faithfully administered for three years, when he removed from the State, and the school came under the principalship of Miss Snell.

In the spring of 1878 Miss Snell organized a school in Oakland, and Miss Atkins, after years of pleasant wandering, full of rich experience, has come back to the old roof-tree.

The following address was delivered by the Rev. Sylvester Woodbridge, D.D., of San Francisco, on October 11th, 1878, at a re-union of former pupils, held for the purpose of organizing a society to perpetuate the history

of the school, as well as making a presentation to Mrs. Atkins-Lynch on her return to Benicia :

“Memory and Hope are two angels that with golden chains bind the past to the future. We cannot afford to lose either. Without the former, our identity of being would cease, our treasures be lost, our responsibility be overwhelmed in the cold waves of oblivion. Without the latter, the future could have no encouragement, nor could we press forward and upward to success, reward, and the crown of glory.

#### THE PAST.

We cannot live over the past. We would not if we could. What once was vivid in its freshness and novelty would now seem cold and effete. The pleasures that once stirred the pulses to impetuous rebound, would cause them to thrill no more. The pains, then half neutralized by the daily stimulus of duty and zeal, would cling with iron grasp to us till we sank down exhausted.

But when we relegate the past to Memory's bright domain, the sweep of her magic wand spreads enchantment over the scene. The pains become but the foil and the background which serve to set off the successes and the joys, and bring them out in more brilliant colors. There we see the fields of usefulness, where the precious harvests were reaped ; there the forms of beauty that 'are a joy forever ;' there were awakened the friendships, whose light will endure beyond the shining sun.

#### THE BENICIA YOUNG LADIES' SEMINARY.

Radiant in the history of this State of California, lighted up by the glory of past years of success and great usefulness, stands this distinguished institution of learning. It began when innumerable and apparently insurmountable obstacles stood in the way of success. But the need of its establishment, and the pressure of what they esteemed to be duty, rested upon those who felt called upon to engage in the enterprise. Therefore they manfully undertook the task, girded themselves for the arduous duty, made the great and needful sacrifices of money, time and toil, and in the year 1852, the Seminary was launched forth on the perilous seas of California's fluctuating fortunes. Often was the institution near bankruptcy and destruction. But a kind Providence still and ever interposed, and in nothing more decidedly than when that eminent teacher to whom to-night we render the just honor which is her due, took charge of the Seminary.

#### THE PREVIOUS TEACHERS.

We would diminish nothing from the respect due to the principals and teachers who had charge of this institution during the earliest years of its

existence. Mrs. Wells, assisted by an able corps of teachers, took charge at the inception of the work, and toiled faithfully and successfully. Then Mrs. Nevins, whom we are pleased to see present to honor this occasion, and who labored unweariedly at her task. But the difficulties, chiefly pecuniary, and the burden of carrying the institution when there were so few young ladies yet in the State, and so small a proportion of that number seeking a liberal education, was calculated to paralyze the energies of the patrons of the institution.

MRS. MARY ATKINS-LYNCH.

At the hour of utmost discouragement, Miss Atkins (that was, and she will allow me to recall the name which is so fragrant in our memories) became principal of the Seminary. She took upon herself with daring zeal all the responsibilities of its management and pecuniary liabilities. She became by purchase the owner of the buildings and other property, and boldly went forth to meet the dangers of the way.

Let no one suppose them to have been small. What perils were encountered; what lonely hours of weakness, weariness and discouragement were passed; what tears flowed, and saddened prayers were offered, and pangs of disappointment were suffered before the sunlight rose, God only perfectly knows. It is well that the memory, or at least the vividness of the memory is hidden in the sombre shadows of the night of the past.

Then the Seminary began to rise before our people in all its excellence. Miss Atkins' high repute spread abroad. As fast as her means would allow, she surrounded herself with teachers of superior excellence. Classes of young ladies from the best families in the State gathered in these halls. The successful examinations, the fine exhibitions of talent at the Commencement exercises, the *eclat* given by the learning, refinement and superiority of the graduated pupils, placed the Benicia Young Ladies' Seminary in the front rank with the best institutions in America.

And the credit of this is due to Miss Atkins. Her pupils have made their mark in the world, and speak for themselves. They are among the most distinguished women in this State for all that makes women pre-eminent in intelligence, position and piety. On this platform I see one lady, (Mrs. Kincaid,) a graduate of this institution, who has made teaching her profession. She is one of the most distinguished and successful teachers in the Girls' High School in San Francisco. Everywhere in the families, the neighborhoods, the schools, the cities of our State, have the instructions and influence of Miss Atkins left an impression, deep, broad and abiding.

Nor is that influence confined to us. Many of the bright pupils who once lent radiance to these scenes, have left the dark earth, guided by that divine faith which led their steps up the heavenly way. The earliest and foremost of the graduates (Mrs. Walsh Ferguson) thus departed in the hope

of glory. Others have followed her. But last week there was one in San Francisco (Miss Mary Dollarhide) who hoped to have been present on this occasion. But this very week we have been called to follow all of her that was mortal to the house appointed for all living. But it is believed by many that the dead are sometimes permitted to revisit the earth, and though unseen by us, pass through our midst and rejoice in our joy. It is in speaking of the faithful dead that the Scriptures say: 'Seeing therefore that we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses!' The beautiful dead who have gone up from us may return to hail and applaud our continued zeal and efforts for good.

#### HOPE.

The Word of God forbids us to dwell amid the former scenes 'Forgetting the things that are past, press toward the mark for the prize' which God from on high is calling to us to attain. Mr. Moody's favorite song is one that it behooves us all to sing:

'More to follow, always more to follow!'

It is consummate folly always to be dawdling over what might have been. The past is gone. Nothing can recall it. The present and the future, under God, are ours.

It was a most noble suggestion to bring back to this school the person who at an early day made it so famous. She comes indeed under better auspices than before. She is no longer alone, but with her much esteemed and honored husband (Mr. Lynch) she brings accumulated force and courage to her grand task. It seems to us that there is almost everything to encourage and hope for in this renewed undertaking. Certainly the field is very different from what it was formerly. Schools for young ladies, distinguished for the character of the teachers and their elegant adornings, are numerous. The public schools are aiming at the most thorough training of their pupils. But this Seminary, under the experienced, skillful and kindly direction of Mrs. Lynch, need not fear to enter into competition with any or all of them. Her reputation goes before her, and is known of all. The many superior ladies, graduates of this school, who adorn California society, are her standing advertisement.

We tender to the citizens of Benicia our hearty congratulations for the great acquisition to this Young Ladies' Seminary of its eminent former principal, and to Mr. and Mrs. Lynch our best wishes and prayers that they may secure the triumphant success they justly deserve."



## OFFICERS OF GOVERNMENT AND INSTRUCTION FOR 1879-80 ARE

MARY ATKINS LYNCH, *Principal*; MARTHA HATHAWAY, *Latin, Literature, History and Geography*; FRANCIS C. BAUMAN, *Mathematics*; ANNE C. CRAIG, *Natural History, Elocution and Drawing*; A. ROGER, *French*; JOSEPHINE ABELE, *French, German and Piano*; F. CORBAZ, *Piano*; SUSIE I. MORGAN, *Singing*; HARRIE H. RIDDELL, *Painting*; ELIZA E. CROCKER, *Matron*; LAURA LAMME WHITE, *Assistant Matron and Teacher of Sewing*.

THE COLLEGE OF ST. AUGUSTINE—Was founded A. D. 1867, and incorporated in 1868. It is under the Rectorship of the Rt. Rev. J. H. D. Wingfield, D.D., LL.D., and is governed by a Board of Trustees and a Board of Instructors; is located at Benicia, California. The buildings occupy an elevated site and command an extensive view of the Straits of Carquinez and the beautiful hills beyond, with Mount Diablo on the left and San Pablo Bay on the right. The grounds are sixty acres in extent, a portion of which is tastefully laid out and decorated with flowers, ornamental trees and shrubbery. Having been erected expressly for Academical purposes, the buildings are strictly adapted to the needs of the students, being commodious and inviting, well ventilated and heated. In the domestic arrangements every care is taken to unite the culture and comforts of a Christian home with the strict discipline of a school. Attention is paid to the personal habits and manners of the Cadets. They sleep in single alcoves, in dormitories, under the charge of Teachers and Military Officers. The Teachers and Cadets meet as one family in a commodious Dining Hall, and attend Divine Service daily in the College Chapel.

It is designed in this Institution to combine with moral and mental education a thorough course of Military instruction, consisting of daily exercise in Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery Tactics, in which every Cadet is required to participate. In all the routine of duties, each Cadet is subject to a system of regulations, designed to make him prompt, systematic, and gentleman-like. This Military Discipline, by its thoroughness and impartiality, is eminently fitted to perfect the physical man, and to give habits of quick obedience, order, politeness and manliness.

The spacious parade-ground affords a superior and attractive place for drill and physical recreation, while a large building, erected for the Eulexian Literary and Dramatic Society, and for an Armory, with Gymnasium attached, furnishes the Cadet with unusual advantages of in-door exercises.

In the work of instruction, the Rector is aided by a Corps of Experienced and Competent Professors and Teachers, who devote their time exclusively to the business of the College.

Each Instructor has been selected because of his peculiar fitness for the Department to which he is assigned, and is held responsible for the faithful

discharge of his duty to his classes. In order to satisfy himself of the proper advancement of all Cadets, the Rector frequently examines the respective classes.

The College Session consists of Two Terms of Twenty Weeks each.

TRINITY TERM begins on the Thursday after the 28th of July, and closes on the Thursday next before the 23d of December. After a vacation of four weeks, the EASTER TERM begins on the second Thursday in January, and closes on the Thursday next after the first Wednesday in June.

Punctual attendance on the first day of the term is imperative. To insure high standing, the Cadet must answer at the roll-call at 7 o'clock on the evening of the opening day. No alcoves are reserved, the first on the ground has the first choice in the Dormitory to which he may be assigned.

Every Cadet, on his arrival, shall immediately report himself to the Rector, the Commandant of the Corps, and the First Sergeant.

No furloughs are granted after entrance. Patrons are urged not to ask permission for Cadets to leave the College for any cause. Under no circumstances can any Cadet be received for less than a term. He is expected to remain at least one Session of two terms, during which period his whole time and energies are required. New Cadets will be admitted at any time; and, after the first month will be charged from date of entrance to the end of the term.

No visitors are welcome on the Lord's Day.

There are, besides these two Academies, the School under the Catholic clergy, and the College of St. Mary.

While on the subject of schools, we would here draw attention to what has been done for the education of the young of the county in the past thirty years.

If there is one man more than another to whom praise is due for the present educational prosperity of the State, and therefore of Solano county, in which he was especially interested, that man is the late Hon. Paul K. Hubbs. From the first arrival of this accomplished statesman in California, he strove manfully and ardently to systematize its educational interests. He served for a long time as the head of that especial department in the State Legislature, and it is worthy of note that during his tenure of that responsible office, in three years, the number of schools in the State increased from twenty to three hundred and sixteen, while the attendance rose from three thousand three hundred and fourteen to twenty-six thousand one hundred and sixty. This was more than twenty years ago; what are the school statistics of the county at present!

On the 30th of June, 1878, the number of first grade schools in Solano county were twenty-six; second grade, thirty-eight; and third, seventeen. Of these one school-house is built of brick—that at Benicia, formerly the



*Geo. C. McKinley*





State Capitol, and fifty-two of wood, while four new school-houses have been erected in the last year. These schools are taught by eighty-one teachers, of whom fifty are females and thirty-one males, the former having an average monthly salary of \$63.52, and the latter \$91.16; eighteen of these preceptors hold life certificates. In the year ending, as per above date, two schools were maintained less than six months, twenty-four for more than six and less than eight, while twenty-one were continued for eight months and over. Within that period fifteen certificates were granted to male, and thirteen to female teachers, and twenty applicants rejected, while there were twenty-three certificates renewed. Five students from Solano were at that date attending the State Normal School, and in regard to the county's division there are forty-eight districts, three of them being fractional, and in one of these the school-house is situated without the limits of the county. The rate of county school-tax levied to October, 1877, was 25 per 100. County assessment roll of taxable property for 1877, \$9,022,101; amount received from county taxes, \$23,157 59; amount received from poll-tax, \$3,771 85; cash drawn from unapportioned County Fund for Board of Examination, \$244 55; cash drawn from unapportioned County Fund for postage, stationery, etc., \$25. The value of the school lots, houses and furniture to that date was \$98,600; cash in hand in various districts on June 30, 1878, \$16,809 67; received from State Apportionment School Fund, \$36,119 89; from County Apportionment in total, \$28,355 55; from City and District Taxes, \$4,212 47, and from miscellaneous sources, \$945. Teachers' salaries have been paid to the amount of \$49,443 92; fuel, rent, etc., \$9,151 08; libraries, \$1,397 61; apparatus and other necessaries, \$138 10, and sites, furniture, etc., \$9,675 43. Thus it is seen to what vast proportions the educational interests of one county may spring in what is not quite half a life-time.

SECRET SOCIETIES, ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.—All cities, how small they may be, have each their lodge, brotherhood or guild; as is natural, Benicia is not without such representation; indeed she would appear to have been one of the first to whom was extended the right hand of brotherly love.

*Benicia Lodge No. 5, F. and A. M.*—Has a history of rare mark. On June 5, 1849, certain Master Masons received from the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, permission to congregate into a Traveling Lodge, to be held in California. A Lodge, under this Dispensation, was opened by L. A. Besançon, one of the original number, who appointed D. B. Hyam, W. M.; James H. Saunders, S. W.; and L. B. Mizner, J. W., the officers in the original Dispensation of that rank, being permanently absent. The first meeting of the Lodge was held and officers appointed, on March 6th, 1850. On application, a Charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of California; on the 26th of

November, of the same year, the first officers appointed, being D. B. Hyam, W. M.; L. B. Mizner, S. W.; and Alexander Riddell, J. W. The number of members on the roll are now about forty-five; while the officers for the current year are: W. M., George Poor; S. W., Murdoch McArthur; J. W., Louis Weinmann; Treasurer, John Reuger; Secretary, Charles Spalding; S. D., William R. Campbell; J. D., John Mounce; Marshall, F. P. Weinmann; Stewards, F. D. Blake, and Edwin Esty; and Tyler, T. Sage. The Trustees are: R. Westerby, T. McKay, and V. Newmark. It meets on the Wednesday of, or preceding, the full moon; and we are happy to say that this old institution flourishes, it having a cash-balance on hand, as well as owning the hall wherein the craft meet, and the lot on which it has been erected.

*Benicia Chapter No. 7, R. A. M.*—This Chapter received its Charter on May 1, 1855; the members applying, and whose names appear on the parchment, being Charles French, John L. Sanborn, Thomas Farmer, William McGuffick, Thomas Brownlee, Henry Hook, B. Robinson, J. C. Stone, R. N. Woode, H. Wheeler, John Tucker, and Sydney Maupin. The first officers who served after the institution of the Chapter, were: John L. Sanborn, High Priest; Charles French, King; and Thomas Farmer, Scribe. The present office-holders are: High Priest, Timothy Sage; King, Thomas McKay; Scribe, Murdoch McArthur; Treasurer, John Reuger; Secretary, Charles Spalding; Captain of Host, George Poor; Prin. Sojourner, Wm. R. Campbell; Roy. Arch. Captain, L. B. Mizner; Master, 3rd. Vail, E. H. Von Pfister; Master of 2nd Vail, Joseph Green Johnson; Master of 1st Vail, Archibald McDonald; Guard, Robert Steuart. Past High Priest, Timothy Sage. The members on the roll at present are twenty-three in number; while they meet on the Tuesday of, or preceding, the full moon.

*Solano Lodge, No. 22, I. O. O. F.*—This, another of California's first organized Lodges, was instituted by Right Worshipful Grand Master, S. H. Parker, on April 8, 1854, having, for its Charter members, George H. Riddell, Paul Shirley, Charles W. Hayden, George Leviston, and John S. Brown. The first officers who served, were: George Leviston, N. G.; Paul Shirley, V. G.; C. W. Hayden, Secy.; and T. B. Storer, Treas., who, on being installed, at once held a meeting, and conferred degrees upon several applicants. The number on the muster-roll of the Lodge now, is sixty-two; while the officers in the different chairs, are; N. G., Dr. V. Newmark; V. G., (vacant); Secretary, Charles Spalding; Treasurer, S. J. Filer; W. Warden, William Fox; Conductor, H. A. Booth; O. G., William Kuhland; I. G., A. P. Whitman; R. S. to N. G., D. E. Roberts; L. S. to N. G., John Binnington; R. S. to V. G., Daniel Cameron; L. S. to V. G., Joseph Roskilly; R. S. S., Fred. Fried; L. S. S., George Roskilly. Trustees, J. R. Brown, A. P. Whitman,

William Kuhland. This Lodge owns its hall wherein the brethren meet; and we are happy to announce that it was never in so prosperous a condition as it is to-day. Meetings every Monday evening.

INDUSTRIES.—Without doubt the industries of Benicia are centred in its tanneries, of which there are three of extensive proportions in operation, giving employment to nearly three hundred men. The day has gone, when in the workshops of this, then thought to be the rising city of the Pacific coast, the noise and bustle of manufacture was heard. The works of the Mail Company, which used to pay out as much as \$60,000 per month in wages alone, have long ago been abandoned; and Mr. Westerby, the present proprietor, who has lately acquired the property, is now hunting the *tule* for old chains, for many years hid by mud and rushes. Ditches have ceased to be dug, or streets to be graded; and but for its tanneries, this fair city, which once had such fair prospects, would be a city of the dead indeed.

*The Pioneer Tannery.*—This establishment, as its name signifies, was the first tannery started in Benicia. About eleven years ago, J. R. Brown and Thomas McKay decided to try the experiment of running a tannery at this place. They started in with four tan vats, and only a few hundred dollars in money, but with a whole fortune of pluck. By hard work, superior skill, and close attention to business, they made the enterprise a success from the start, when failure was prophesied from all quarters; and now the Pioneer tannery is one of the most important in the State. It has a reputation that extends to Boston. The buildings and yards occupy between four and five acres of ground. They have two currying shops that are 35x45 feet in size; a beam house that is 75 feet long by forty wide; a splendid wharf, with a building on it, 75 feet long and two stories high, that is used as a warehouse, drying-room, and bark-shed. They have other buildings, consisting of numerous bark-sheds, bark-mill, engine house, boarding house, etc. The machinery of the establishment is run by a 15-horse power engine. They have here all the latest improved machinery, consisting of a glassing jack, roller, slicking-off machine, etc. Some idea of the amount of capital required to run this place may be formed from the fact that they have on hand between eight and ten thousand dollars' worth of tan bark alone. Some thirty men find steady employment here. The tannery is producing now six hundred sides per week. The manufactures of this establishment consists principally of sole, harness, buff, shoe and polish leather. Mr. Alexander Chisholm, shortly after the tannery was started, was taken in as a partner, and in July last, he and Mr. McKay bought out Mr. Brown's interest, and the tannery is now owned and run by McKay & Chisholm, who were both almost raised tanners. They give their personal supervision to the mechanical department, which may in part account for the success of the institution.



*The Benicia Tannery.*—Some five years after the starting of the Pioneer, Mr. Robert Stewart started a tannery near it. After a year or two's proprietorship, he was succeeded by Messrs. Moore & Cummings. The new firm had hardly got in good working order, when the whole establishment, in a few short hours, was destroyed by fire. This was a severe blow to the young men composing the firm; but Mr. E. Danforth, an old resident of Benicia, having confidence in their business qualifications, skill and enterprise, furnished them means to build and conduct the tannery now owned and run by them at the foot of First street. The establishment occupies two acres of land for its buildings, yards and sheds. The currying shop is 40x60 feet, and three stories high, connected with which are drying-rooms, bark-mill, beam-house, etc., nearly 200 feet in length. Near this building is an immense bark shed, which holds between five and six hundred cords of bark—worth \$10,000—which is laid in every fall to carry over to the next season. They have also warehouse room for storing leather and material used in the manufacturing. They make eighteen different kinds of leather here. They have between thirty and forty hands, and have between fifteen and twenty thousand dollars invested in stock all the time. Their monthly pay-roll for wages amounts to about \$2,000. They manufacture about 3,000 sides per month. Mr. Chas. Moore attends to the business department, and Mr. Frank Cummings to the mechanical department. The latter gentleman is a manufacturer of some twenty years' experience in the Eastern States, where he acquired a thorough and practical knowledge of making all the finer grades of leather; such as glove kid, Russia, pebble goat, shoe, buff and leather for hand satchels or bags. To him for the skill, and to Messrs. Brown & McKay for the enterprise, is the State indebted for adding these to the wealth of California manufactures. The manufacture of the hand-bag leather has led to the establishment of a manufactory of those articles in San Francisco, and Messrs. Moore & Cummings have the orders for the leather. Mr. Cummings, when he arrived in California, went to nearly every tannery and sought to introduce the manufacture of these fancy leathers, and especially buff leather, which was at that time extensively shipped to this State. His efforts were fruitless until he met with Messrs. Brown & McKay, who were clear-headed enough to see the advantage and profit of making that leather in California, and had the pluck to run the risk of the experiment. The result was all that Cummings claimed, and all Brown & McKay expected. It soon gave to Benicia the reputation of being the hub of the tannery interest of the State. The Benicia tannery has a large amount of its leather made up into boots and shoes in San Francisco, and they intend that as soon as it can be accomplished, to have that manufacturing done in Benicia. The different varieties of leather manufactured at this tannery were displayed at the Mechanic's Fair in a very attractive



manner, and was examined by a large number of experts who pronounced the display in the highest degree creditable to the exhibitors. The managers of the institution awarded them the Grand Medal for the finest display in their line of goods. On the 1st of January next there will be a change in the firm's name, the new firm will be composed of Mr. C. J. Moore, F. Cummings, and Mr. E. P. Danforth, who will own equal interests. Success to them.

*Brown's Tannery.*—Mr. J. R. Brown some months previous to selling out his interest in the Pioneer Tannery had started a small tannery near the old establishment on his own responsibility and after settling up with his old partners immediately went to work to put his small establishment on an equal footing with his neighbors in facility and capacity. He erected new buildings, put in a steam engine, bought more land, and soon had an establishment that was creditable to Mr. Brown's enterprise and a substantial addition to the manufacturing interests of Benicia. The main building is 100x30 feet in size with three floors. A short distance from it is the bark mill, also a beam house. Mr. Brown gives employment to some twenty hands, and is now manufacturing from 75 to 100 sides per day. Dan. Chisholm, a practical tanner of great experience, is the foreman. The production of this tannery is principally sole, harness and light leather. The machinery of the establishment is run by a fifteen horse-power engine and the steam is furnished by a thirty horse-power boiler. Both were built by J. L. Heald, of Vallejo. The engine is a beautiful piece of mechanism. About one-half of the production of the tannery is bought from the city tanneries partly tanned and is finished here. Since the 1st inst. he has increased the size of his beam house, and has a force of carpenters at work increasing the number of his vats. Mr. Brown is not only an enterprising and successful tanner, but is a most valuable citizen. He is at present one of the City Trustees, and ever on hand to give his personal aid and time to assist any project of public character or enterprise of benefit to Benicia.

*Pacific Cement Company*—P. Martin, proprietor and manager, was established in 1864 and is situated on blocks 35 and 36 in the city of Benicia. The establishment is comprised in seven buildings, viz.: Kiln-house, mill-house and warehouses, with cooper's shops, etc. The machinery used is worked by a steam engine of twenty horse-power, with a capacity of turning out 140 barrels of cement a day. The material used is obtained from within a circuit of six miles; it is easily procured and of the first order, the quality of the cement, when mixed, being asserted to be equal to that of the best Rosendale. There is a capacity for the employment of fifty men on the works, while every facility for shipment, in regard to wharves and warehouses, are to be found on the premises. The company owns a schooner of its own which plies between the works and San Francisco.

*Benicia Brewery.*—The Benicia Brewery stands on lot sixteen, block twenty, and is the adobe building erected by Major Stephen Cooper in 1847, and used first by him and after by Von Pfister as the California Hotel. In the month of August, 1855, the structure was purchased by John Reuger who started a brewery, a portion of the materials and machinery being brought by him from Marysville where he had previously engaged in the business. The structure has, since its abobe days, been considerably improved by brick and wooden additions, making now a main building 62x46 feet of two and one-half stories, with necessary cellars. The front portion of the first floor consists of six rooms, used as a saloon and for dwelling purposes, the second floor has five sleeping rooms, and the third is the air drying-room for malt. Besides these there are in other buildings, the malt house, the granary, brewing room and beer cellars. On the floor above the brewing room is a beer kettle of fifteen barrels capacity, a crushing mill for malt, and the beer cooler. Mr. Reuger's establishment is one well worthy a visit, while his business, we are informed, considering the times is fairly prosperous.

*HOTELS.*—The old original hotels mentioned in these pages have long since made way for others, but with no marked success, it is to be presumed in regard to the number of guests or the returns to their tills; mayhap the railroad may do some good; if it should, time will tell. To-day the hotel proprietors would not seem to be reaping a golden harvest; in olden days affairs were different in the matter of houses of entertainment. In 1849, when Capt. Von Pfister was proprietor of the California House, he paid his cook \$150 a month, two stewards \$125 each, a dishwasher \$65, a house-keeper and bar-tender \$100 each, while with a rental of \$500 per mensem, he cleared, for eleven months, a free sum of \$1,000 for each month. In 1852, Tom Maguire, the present lessee and manager of Baldwin's Theatre in San Francisco, arrived in Benicia and built a gorgeous "gin mill" near where the Solano Hotel now stands, indeed the place is now the barber's shop. This saloon was at the time the finest in the State; two large bars were kept constantly at work, while the attractiveness of the establishment was materially enhanced by the presence of a noble band of music—these were the days of reckless squanderings and riotous living.

*Solano Hotel*—Is the principal hostelry in the city where the traveler will receive every attention to his wants, and be courteously treated by the host, F. P. Weinmann. The building was owned and carried on as a hotel by his father before him, and to-day the establishment receives most of the patronage which comes to Benicia.

It is now in contemplation to change the present route of the overland train, bringing it from Sacramento by way of Suisun and Benicia, thence

crossing the straits of Carquinez to the line now running to Martinez and Oakland. Large ferry slips are being built for this purpose, but it will be some months ere the works are completed.

In conclusion we will draw attention to Benicia as a place for manufactures.

We have before this alluded in general terms to the advantages which Benicia possesses, and pointed out several classes of such enterprises to which it presents exceptional facilities. The list of these can be easily extended.

We do not know of a town in the State which offers a better location for a box manufactory than Benicia. Boxes can, in the first place, be made cheaper here than in San Francisco, the present great center of the business. The lumber can be brought here directly from the Coast mills and as cheaply as to San Francisco, and the ground for the establishment can be bought or leased a great deal cheaper. This later is no small item. Box manufactories require a great deal of extra ground to hold their stock of lumber and furnish a place for seasoning it. There is one box manufactory in San Francisco the value of grounds alone is worth, if our memory serves rightly, over a hundred thousand dollars. This represents an extra amount of capital which its business requires, and in reality increases the expenses of the building by about one thousand dollars a month or whatever the interest on the valuation may be.

Now as to the market. Benicia is right at the door of as good a local market, at least for some classes of boxes, as there is in the State. For fruit boxes the demand in this section is immense. There are the orchards and vineyards of Napa county, of Green Valley, Pleasant Valley, and in fact of the whole of Solano county—an area embracing one of the most abundant fruit producing sections of the State. All this section could be supplied to advantage from a Benicia factory. Last and by no means least are the immense and prolific orchards of the Sacramento river, but a step as it were from our city. Here is a supply of fruit requiring three or four fruit steamers to carry it to market; and the product rapidly increasing. This section promises to be one vast orchard before many years, as to supply almost the State with some kinds of fruit. A Benicia manufactory ought to be able from its position to meet at least a large share of the box consumption required in this immense business.

A sketch of the newspapers that have been published in Benicia has been given elsewhere. At the present time there exists *The New Era*—which was first printed on December 22, 1877, edited and published by F. A. Leach, manager of the Vallejo Chronicle Publishing Co. On January 12, 1878, Mr. E. A. McDonell was admitted a partner in the concern, and on May 22, 1879, owing to ill-health Mr. Leach withdrew from the firm disposing of his interest to Mr. McDonell, his partner. The *Era* has a circulation of about seven hundred, while most of the "old timers" who now reside in other parts of the United States are on the subscription list. We wish prosperity to the pleasant sheet and its pleasant and kind editor and proprietor



## VALLEJO.

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To General Mariana Guadalupe Vallejo belongs the honor of selecting the spot on which the city which bears his name now stands. The Suscol ranch had been granted to him by the Mexican Government, and in it was comprised what is now Vallejo city. As far back as 1837, then what may be considered the dark ages of the Pacific coast, the district had no resident save the aboriginal Indians, the herds of undomesticated cattle and horses, the beasts of prey, and the fowls of the air. Wild oats grew in every valley and on every hill-top. Trees of any size were few and far between. The rivers and bays teemed with fishes; while game, both large and small, of every kind found shelter in the nooks and crevices of the cañons. In that year, or, perhaps, the following, the General undertook a pilgrimage to these fair leagues of his from Sonoma—a town which he had already laid out by direction of the Commander-in-Chief—accompanied by his youthful bride; both were full of promise, high in spirits and exultant in aspirations; the journey was an arduous one for the fair Señora, but made as comfortable as circumstances would permit, as might be expected for the wife of a heroic soldier. Seated in her chair-saddle (the precursor of those of a later date), she passed through mile upon mile and acre after acre of her husband's possessions, looking with satisfaction upon a territory worthy, in her eyes, of so great a hero. Her retinue were silent with wonder at what they saw, and conversed in whispers; while the proud owner of so fair a domain, with head erect and eagle eye, pointed out the more prominent land-marks. Coming in view of a hill, which he named the Balcony, about six miles north of the present city, they rode to its summit and called a halt to enjoy the ravishing prospect, and here the General, after the manner of De Foe's hero, inferred:

“ I am monarch of all I survey,  
 My right, there is none to dispute;  
 From the centre all round to the sea,  
 I'm lord of the fowl and the brute.”

Resuming their voyage of discovery they arrived on the site where the Capitol was afterwards built, and ascended the knoll; from this vantage ground could be viewed the undulating wastes promising a rare fertility, the sloping hills, the level shore, the Carquinez straits and the bay with its many inlets and well protected harbor, and from this height, almost in the



spirit of prophecy he declared that here should be found a city, a city which would not only hand down his name to posterity with honor, but make a name for itself in the annals of the world—he not only foreshadowed the line of railway which now stretches its giant arms across this vast American continent, but he also told of how ships of every flag would peacefully ride upon the placid bosom of her bays, and how every nation under the blue canopy of heaven should join in the busy whirl of business and this future city of his become the vast emporium of trade on the Pacific Coast, and the half-way house of commerce between Europe and Asia. To this the lady listened with bated breath and answered that she feared he was too visionary and far ahead of the times; he may have replied thus, if not in so many words, assuredly he did so in spirit—mark my words! what I have to-day spoken shall come true. I feel a spirit within which tells me that this Hacienda of mine shall be the nucleus of a vast State, of which I shall be Governor. It shall be bounded on one side by the Isthmus of Panama, the northern sea shall only check its limits on the other hand, while the Rocky mountains, high though they be, shall only encourage me to surmount them, so that my Province may be widened!!! 'Twas from this spot that the Señora Vallejo cast longing eyes upon the fertile slopes of Mare Island, at the time expressing an implied wish that it was hers, when her magnanimous liege spoke forth "it is yours," and thereafter it was looked upon and known as her own private property.

For twelve years after the above described journey General Vallejo ruled his miniature kingdom of some 90,000 acres. The Aborigines were a happy and pastoral race, knowing no guile and living in a state of nature, they had quietly acknowledged the superior influence of the mighty mind and paternal government of their white chief, who had never hurt their feelings or ridiculed their prejudices. The Christian religion was expounded to them by missionaries capable of undertaking so high a labor while with filial obedience they looked to the General as their protector. He built an adobe house on the Suscol fresh water creek, about eleven miles from the sea, where he established Solano, the chief of the Suisun tribe, and former lords of the soil, and after his death, one of his eleven wives found shelter for years under the roof of this large hearted man. The following interesting remarks are taken from the Vallejo directory of 1870. "The toilet of the women was more pretentious (than that of the males), consisting only of a scanty apron of fancy skins or feathers, extending to the knees. Those of them who were unmarried wore also a bracelet around the ankle or arm near the shoulder. This ornament was generally made of bone or fancy wood. Polygamy was a recognized institution. Chiefs generally possessed eleven wives, sub-chiefs nine, and ordinary warriors two or more according to their wealth or property. But Indian-like they would fight among themselves long before the Spaniards came, and bloody fights they often

were. Their weapons were bows and arrows, clubs and spears, with which they were very adroit. They had also a kind of helmet made of skins. In times of peace they kept up the martial spirit by sham fights or tournaments. Their women participated in their battles not as actual belligerents but as a sanitary brigade; they followed their warriors and supplied them with provisions and attended them when wounded, carrying their pappooses on their backs at the same time. These Indians believed in a future existence and an all powerful Great Spirit. But they likewise believed in a Cucusuy, or Mischief-maker, who took delight in their annoyance, and to him and his agent they attributed all their sickness and other misfortunes."

It may not be out of place to relate the following legend: When the Spaniards were crossing the mountain called Bolgones, where an Indian spirit was supposed to dwell, having a cave for his haunt, he was disturbed by the approach of the soldiers, and, emerging from the gloom, arrayed in all his feathers and war paint, with very little else by way of costume, motioned to them to depart, threatening, by gesticulation, to weave a spell around them; but the sturdy warriors were not to be thus easily awed. They beckoned him to approach; this invitation, however, the wizard declined, when one of the men secured him with his lasso to see if he were "goblin damn'd" or ordinary mortal. Even now he would not speak, but continued his mumblings, when an extra tug caused him to shout and pray to be released. On the relation of this, the Indians pointed to Bolgones, calling it the mountain of the Cucusuy, which the Spaniards translated into Monte Diablo. Hence the name of the mountain, which is the meridian of scientific exploration in California.

The first authentic record of a carriage to be found is that in which General Vallejo's family traveled from Sonoma to Benicia in the year 1848. The undertaking was a difficult one enough. The country was innocent of roads or bridges, so that when a creek was gained the horses were unyoked and forded over, while the vehicle was lifted bodily and carried to the opposite side. This may be called the first streak of daylight in the hitherto darkness of locomotion on this part of the coast. About this period would-be settlers first made their appearance, and, after viewing the country, returned to whence they came. In the following year, with the discovery of gold, people from every quarter of the habitable globe flocked to California, which was admitted into the United States of America. The position of this hitherto unpopulated spot was brought prominently forth. Government Surveyors commenced operations, and towards its latter end the settlement of the city may be said to have commenced. No accurate data can be procured of what transpired in the first settlement of the city, or who were the very first families to locate here; but this is beyond dispute, that in the spring of 1850, the name of Vallejo was given to the city out of compliment to that gentleman, who had worked so indefatigably in its behalf,

with what result will be hereafter shown. It had been decided that the Capital should be removed from San Jose hither—a decision which was carried by an almost unanimous vote of the people—therefore the State House was finished toward the end of that year, and, to celebrate the event, the following card of invitation was issued for a grand re-union in the State building. There being few of these now extant, while, from the eminence since gained by many of the managers, this historical card—historical alike to California as a State and Vallejo as a city—has been deemed worthy of being reproduced in its entirety:

“A grand Christmas ball will be given at Vallejo, on the evening of the 25th instant, in the SENATE AND ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS of the new State Capitol, on which occasion the HON. ISAAC E. HOLMES will address the ladies and gentlemen at 7½ o'clock.

M....., the pleasure of your company is respectfully requested.”

#### MANAGERS.

Hon. Isaac E. Holmes ; Gen. P. A. Morse ; Hon. T. Butler King ; Hon. L. M. Boggs ; Hon. William Smith ; Hon. Martin Cook ; Hon. Robert Hopkins ; Hon. Daniel Fisk ; Hon. E. Heydenfelt ; Hon. B. F. Keene ; Hon. Geo. Walton ; Hon. James Walsh ; Hon. Wm. H. Lyons ; Hon. J. C. Fremont ; Hon. P. W. Keyser ; Hon. Jas. Hudspeth ; Hon. James Law ; Hon. G. D. Hall ; Hon. A. J. Cost ; Hon. N. Smith ; Hon. Jas. F. Graham ; Hon. Jas. F. Burt ; Hon. J. B. Weller ; Hon. T. J. Henley ; Gen. M. G. Vallejo ; Gen. D. F. Douglass ; Gen. John E. Addison, Gen. A. M. Winn ; Gen. S. M. Miles ; Gen. D. P. Baldwin ; Gen. Richardson ; Gen. Thomas J. Green ; Gen. A. McDowell ; Gen. G. F. Rains ; Majors P. B. Reading ; S. Cooper ; George Wyatt ; Loring, U. S. A. ; E. H. Fitzgerald ; N. Davis, U. S. A. ; Wm. McDaniel ; Robt. Allen ; F. A. Sawyer ; Colonel J. Hooker, U. S. A. ; Gens. J. M. Estell, and S. A. Booker ; Captains Folsom, U. S. A. ; John A. Sutter ; H. Riddell ; J. B. Frisbie ; Steel, U. S. A. ; Doct. Dyerlie, U. S. A. ; Lieut. G. Page, U. S. A. ; Captains J. Watkins, P. M. S. Co. ; Randall, P. M. S. Co. ; Totten, P. M. S. Co. ; Walsh, P. M. S. Co. ; Cols. John C. Hays ; William Smith ; H. Clay Mudd ; J. B. Starr ; Captains C. Hyatt ; George Yount ; Sam Graham ; Wm. McMickle ; E. Barry ; J. W. Hulbert ; S. Smith ; Thomas Hunt ; Col. R. Rust ; Harvey Sparks, Esq. ; H. Lee, Esq. ; Hon. J. C. Winston ; F. C. Ewer, Esq. ; Judge M. Lewis ; L. P. Walker, Esq. ; M. T. McLeland, Esq. ; Judge Stark ; Judge Kilbourn ; M. Combs, Esq. ; Wm. Baldrige, Esq. ; George M. Cornwell, Esq. ; J. D. Bristol, Esq. ; J. S. Cripps, Esq. ; J. O. Farrell, Esq. ; E. L. Stetson, Esq. ; F. Vassault, Esq. ; J. E. Lawrence, Esq. ; L. B. Mizner, Esq. ; T. J. Harnes, Esq. ; S. Barnum, Esq. ; James Cooper, Esq. ; L. Q. Wilbur, Esq. ; E. F. Willison, Esq. ; John Nugent, Esq. ; Samuel Martin, Esq. ; Col. John R. Boyd ; Dr. Robert Semple ; Dr. Morse ;

B. F. Osborne, Esq.; Capt. F. Marryatt; Capt. W. A. Howard, U. S. R. S.; George N. Shaw, Esq.; Dr. P. C. Pope; Cols. J. C. Johnson; A. M. Latham; C. K. Fish; Stewart Perry; Dr. Pickering; Dr. Nicholas Parr; Hon. P. Tompkins; Major John Caperton; Col. J. Long; E. C. Kemble, Esq.; F. Argenti, Esq.; Charles R. Strode, Esq.; Richard Maupin; Dr. Levi Frisbie; S. C. Massett, Esq.; Major Burney; Dr. Archibald Tennant; Richard Barry, Esq.; J. L. L. F. Warren, Esq.; T. K. Batelle, Esq.; Col. Gregory Yale; E. G. Austin, Esq.; F. R. Loomis, Esq.; W. F. Kelsey, Esq.; E. M. Hayes, Esq.; L. D. Slamm, U. S. N.; Capts., U. S. N.: Aug. Case; J. Alden; S. R. Knox; G. W. Hammersly; Lieuts., U. S. N.: T. H. Stevens; L. Maynard; T. B. King, Jr., Esq.; Wm. H. Davis, Esq.; Hon. S. E. Woodworth; R. H. Taylor, Esq.; Capts. A. Bartol, Douglass Ottinger, U. S. R. S.; Col. Geo. McDougal; Capts. W. D. M. Howard, C. G.; N. H. Wise; Henry F. Joseph, Esq.; J. H. Redington, Esq.; Dr. Hitchcock, U. S. A.; Hon. H. Fitzsimmons; James Hubbard, Esq.; Theodore Payne, Esq.; Wm. H. Talmage, Esq.; Dr. H. M. Gray; Hon. P. A. Morse; Charles L. Case, Esq., and Joseph C. Palmer, Esq. On the reverse side of the card the names of the committees were printed, as under:

#### RED ROSE.

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##### COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

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Captain John Frisbie; Major Robert Allen; Gen. T. J. Green; Capt. Edward Barry; Major Wyatt; C. H. Veeder, Esq.; F. Argenti, Esq.; H. Clay Mudd, Esq.

#### BLUE ROSE.

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##### COMMITTEE OF RECEPTION.

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Hon. Isaac E. Holmes; Hon. John B. Weller; T. Butler King; Capt. J. Alden, U. S. N.; Col. J. Hooker, U. S. A.; Hon. B. F. Keene; Major F. A. Sawyer; Capt. G. W. Hammersley, U. S. N.; Col. E. J. C. Kewen; Hon. Tod Robinson.

#### WHITE ROSE.

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##### BALL-ROOM COMMITTEE.

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For Senate Chamber—Gen. S. M. Miles; Gen. J. E. Addison; Col. Hervey Sparks; Levi D. Slamm, U. S. N. For Assembly Room—Dr. Dierly, U. S. N.; Capt. F. Marryatt; Dr. L. Frisbie, and E. L. Stetson, Esq.

Thus by a ball of the most magnificent proportions was Vallejo inaugurated as the seat of Government.

Let us now consider the establishment of the State offices, the erection of the Capitol, its removal, its return, and then its final exit from Vallejo.



In the year 1850 General Vallejo, who had previously been elected to the Convention called to frame a State Constitution, became convinced that the capital of California should be established at a place which he desired to name Eureka, but which his colleagues, out of compliment to himself, suggested should be called Vallejo. To this end the General addressed a memorial to the Senate, wherein he graphically pointed out the advantages possessed by the proposed site over other places which claimed the honor, dated April the 3d, 1850. In this remarkable document, remarkable alike for its generosity of purpose as for its marvelous foresight, he proposed to grant twenty acres to the State, free of cost, for a State Capitol and grounds, and one hundred and thirty-six acres more for other State buildings, to be apportioned in the following manner :

- Ten acres for the Governor's house and grounds.
- Fives acres for the offices of Treasurer, Comptroller, Secretary of State, Surveyor-General, and Attorney-General, should the Commissioners determine that their offices should not be in the Capitol building.
- One acre to State Library and Translator's office, should it be determined to separate them from the State House building.
- Twenty acres for an Orphan Asylum.
- Ten acres for a Male Charity Hospital.
- Ten acres for a Female Charity Hospital.
- Four acres for an Asylum for the Blind.
- Four acres for a Deaf and Dumb Asylum.
- Twenty acres for a Lunatic Asylum.
- Eight acres for four Common Schools.
- Twenty acres for a State University.
- Four acres for a State Botanical Garden ; and
- Twenty acres for a State Penitentiary.

But with a munificence casting this already long list of grants into the shade, he further proposed to donate and pay over to the State, within two years after the acceptance of these propositions, the gigantic sum of three hundred and seventy thousand dollars, to be apportioned as under :

For the building of a State Capitol . . . . .	\$125,000
For furnishing the same . . . . .	10,000
For building of the Governor's house . . . . .	10,000
For the furnishing the same . . . . .	5,000
For a State Library and Translator's office . . . . .	5,000
For a State Library . . . . .	5,000
For the building of the offices of the Secretary of State, Comptroller, Attorney-General, Surveyor-General, and Treasurer, should the Commissioners	

deem it proper to separate them from the State	
House .....	20,000
For the building of an Orphan Asylum.....	20,000
For the building of a Female Charity Hospital.....	20,000
For the building of a Male Charity Hospital.....	20,000
For the building of an Asylum for the Blind.....	20,000
For the building of a Deaf and Dumb Asylum.....	20,000
For the building of a State University.....	20,000
For University Library.....	5,000
For scientific apparatus therefor.....	5,000
For chemical laboratory therefor.....	3,000
For a mineral cabinet therefor.....	3,000
For the building of four Common School edifices....	10,000
For purchasing books for same.....	1,000
For the building of a Lunatic Asylum.....	20,000
For a State Penitentiary.....	20,000
For a State Botanical Collection.....	3,000

In his memorial, the General states with much lucidness his reasons for claiming the proud position for the spot suggested as the proper site for the State Capitol. Remark the singleness of purpose with which he bases these claims: "Your memorialist, with this simple proposition" (namely, that in the event of the Government declining to accept his terms it should be put to the popular vote at the general election held in November of that year), "might stop here, did he not believe that his duty as a citizen of California required him to say thus much in addition—that he believes the location indicated is the most suitable for a permanent seat of government for the great State of California, for the following reasons: That it is the true centre of the State, the true centre of commerce, the true centre of population, and the true centre of travel; that, while the Bay of San Francisco is acknowledged to be the first on the earth, in point of extent and navigable capacities, already, throughout the length and breadth of the wide world, it is acknowledged to be the very centre between Asiatic and European commerce. The largest ship that sails upon the broad sea can, within three hours, anchor at the wharves of the place which your memorialist proposes as your permanent seat of government. From this point, by steam navigation, there is a greater aggregate of mineral wealth, within eight hours steaming, than exists in the Union besides; from this point the great north and south rivers—San Joaquin and Sacramento—cut the State longitudinally through the centre, fringing the immense gold deposits on the one hand, and untold mercury and other mineral resources on the other; from this point steam navigation extends along the Pacific coast south to San Diego and north to the Oregon line, affording the quickest possible

facilitates for our sea-coast population to reach the State Capital in the fewest number of hours. This age, as it has been truly remarked, has merged distance into time. In the operations of commerce and the intercourse of mankind, to measure miles by the rod, is a piece of vandalism of a by-gone age; and that point which can be approached from all parts of the State, in the fewest number of hours and at the cheapest cost, is the truest centre.

“The location which your memorialist proposes as the permanent Seat of Government is certainly that point.

“Your memorialist most respectfully submits to your honorable body, whether there is not a ground of even still higher nationality; it is this: that at present, throughout the wide extent of our sister Atlantic States, but one sentiment seems to possess the entire people, and that is, to build, in the shortest possible time, a railroad from the Mississippi to the Bay of San Francisco, where its western terminus may meet a three weeks' steamer from China. Indeed, such is the overwhelming public sentiment of the American people upon this subject, there is but little doubt to apprehend of its early completion. Shall it be said, then, while the world is coveting our possession of what all acknowledge to be the half-way house of the earth's commerce—the great Bay of San Francisco—that the people of the rich possession are so unmindful of its value as not to ornament her magnificent shores with a Capital worthy of a great State?

“To enumerate more especially the local advantages of this position your memorialist will further add, that it is within two hours' steaming of San Francisco, and six hours from Sacramento and Stockton cities, and between these points much the largest travel in the State daily occurs. From this point three days' steaming will reach either Oregon on the north, or San Diego on the south; besides, the above named location is unsurpassed for abundance of lime and other building materials, with large agricultural advantages in the immediate neighborhood.”

Upon receipt of General Vallejo's memorial by the Senate, a committee composed of members who possessed a thorough knowledge of the country comprised in the above mentioned document, both geographical and topographical, were directed to report for the information of the President, upon the advantages claimed for the location of the Capital at the spot suggested, in preference to others. The Report, in which the following words occur, was presented to the Senate on April 2, 1850. “Your Committee cannot dwell with too much warmth upon the magnificent propositions contained in the memorial of General Vallejo. They breathe throughout the spirit of an enlarged mind and a sincere public benefactor, for which he deserves the thanks of his countrymen and the admiration of the world. Such a proposition looks more like the legacy of a mighty Emperor to his people than the free donation of a private planter to a great State, yet poor in public finance, but soon to be among the first of the earth.”



The Report, which was presented by D. C. Broderick, goes on to point out the necessities which should govern the choice of site of California's Capital, recapitulates the advantages pointed out in the memorial, and finally recommends the acceptance of General Vallejo's offer. This acceptance did not pass the Senate without some opposition and considerable delay. However, on Tuesday, February 4, 1851, a message was received from the Governor, Peter H. Burnett, by Mr. Ohr, Private Secretary, informing the Senate that he did, this day, sign an Act originating in the Senate, entitled "An Act to provide for the permanent location of the Seat of Government." In the meantime General Vallejo's bond had been accepted, his solvency was approved by a Committee appointed by the Senate, the Report of the Commissioners appointed to mark and lay out the tracts of land proposed to be donated by General Vallejo was adopted, and on May 1, 1851, the last session was held at San Jose, but the archives were not moved to the new seat of government then, which was a source of dissatisfaction among the members. The Legislature first met at Vallejo on January 5, 1852, bringing with it the concomitant influx of settlers, the Capitol being erected on a piece of ground situated on what now is called York and Main, and facing Sacramento street. It was a two-storied building. in the upper one of which sat the Senate, the lower one the Assembly, while in the basement was a saloon and ten-pin alley, which rejoiced in the nick-name of the Third House. The office of the Secretary of State stood on Main street, above Sacramento, but it was afterwards removed to Georgia street, when the original building was converted into a drug-store by Doctor James Frost. This erection was some years subsequently destroyed by fire. The offices were built of hewn planks from the Sandwich Islands.

Vallejo was now in reality the Capital of the Golden State. The generosity of General Vallejo had been appreciated; houses commenced to spring up on every side, but there was wanting that vortex of dissipation which would appear to be necessary in the seat of every Central Government. With these Sacramento abounded, from her close proximity to the mines. The Assembly, therefore, with a unanimity bordering on the marvelous, passed a bill to remove the session to that city, ball tickets and theatre tickets being tendered to the members in reckless profusion. The bill was transferred to the Senate, and bitterly fought by the Hons. Paul K. Hubbs and Phil A. Roach. The removal was rejected by *one* vote. This was on a Saturday. The people were greatly rejoiced at the prospect of retaining the prestige conferred by the presence of the Legislature; but never was the proverb of we know not what the morrow may bring forth, more fully brought to bear upon any consideration. Senator Anderson found an extra sized louse on his pillow. On Monday morning he moved a reconsideration of the bill. The alarm was sounded on every hand, and at 2 P. M. on January 12, 1852, the Government and Legislature was find-





*Geo. A. Gillespie.*



ing its way to Sacramento by way of the Carquinez Straits. Retribution for Vallejo was at hand, however. On the 7th of March, 1852, a devastating flood overwhelmed Sacramento, and where the Senators had before feared contamination, they now feared drowning. The Legislature adjourned at Sacramento May 4, 1852, the next session to be held at Vallejo. On January 3, 1853, the peripatetic Government met again at Vallejo, whither the offices of State and a portion of the archives had been removed in May. Once more the spirit of jealousy was rampant; Sacramento could not with any grace ask for its removal back thither; but she, working with Benicia, the Capital was once more on wheels and literally carted off to the latter town for the remaining portion of the session, when a bill was passed to fix the Capital of the State at Sacramento, and thereafter clinched by large appropriations for building the present magnificent Capitol in that town. The last sitting of the Legislature at Vallejo was held on February 4, when it was resolved to meet at Benicia on the eleventh of the month, the vote being concurred in as follows: Ayes—Messrs. Baird, Denver, Estill, Hager, Hubbs, Hudspeth, Keene, Lind, Lott, Lyons, McKibben, Roach, Smith, Snyder, Sprague, Wade, Wombough—17. Nays—Crabb, Cofforth, Foster, Gruwell, Ralston, Walkup—6.

As has been remarked above, there is no reliable information in regard to the exact date of the founding of a settlement, but with the advent of the Legislature, affairs took a forward movement. In 1850 Captain Frank Marryatt, the author of that most interesting work entitled "Mountains and Molehills," who was a son of the famous nautical novelist, imported some corrugated iron houses from Liverpool, in England, which he erected, and at once found tenants for them. In the Fall of this year Mrs. Burns built the first boarding-house, erecting it on the spot where it now stands, on Georgia street, directly opposite the Post-office, while there were run up about the same time the Virginia Hotel by Veeder, Social Hall by Capt. Stewart, and Central Hotel by Major Wyatt.

The few buildings then comprised in the town were situated between Pennsylvania street on the south, Georgia on the north, Sonoma on the east, and the Bay on the west. The country is described as beautiful in the extreme; the rising grounds on every side were green with wild oats, interspersed with flowers of the richest hue, resembling one vast sea when stirred by the freshening breeze. To the right and left, on the hills and in the hollows, the most luxuriant vegetation abounded, growing shoulder high with a man on horseback, while here and there the path of rushing cattle could be traced as they were driven away from a too close proximity to the settlement. This, however, is certain, that in June, 1851, the Vallejo House, then kept by Capt. Stewart, was in full blast, while it is believed that this gentleman was the first to build a house on the site of the present city. During the following year it has been shown that the seat of

government was at Vallejo, and but few of those who followed its varied fortunes found an abiding place there. The only information, therefore, which has been procured having any semblance of authenticity is from the month of December, 1852. Prior to this a family of the name of Swift were located, but they left with the removal of the Government in 1853, leaving behind Mr. and Mrs. Beegor, Major Wyatt and his wife, Mr. Osborne and wife, Mrs. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Mann, Robert Brownlee and his wife, Thomas Brownlee, his wife and son Alexander J., now City Clerk, who was the first white child in the city, and a few unmarried men. These were not what might be termed halcyon days. Affairs were in a most primitive state. There was but one span of mules and a wagon, who acknowledged one Lemuel Hazelton as the proud possessor; he also kept some goats, which in the exigencies of the culinary art became mutton when served at table. The Legislature had left after its short-lived session of eight days, the places of business had followed it, leaving Vallejo a deserted village without a store. In the meantime a two-horse stage had been established by William Bryant between Benicia and Vallejo, by which means the residents were wont to procure their domestic commodities, while a small sloop made monthly trips to San Francisco, when other necessaries were purchased. Moving about on horseback was, however, the principal and most favorite mode of locomotion, for Macadam had not yet cast his influence on the ways of the district. If there were no stores, however, the small community was well provided in the matter of stimulants, for there were no less than three places where whisky was sold. At this time the government of the city was vested in a Justice of the Peace and one Constable, who held office by vote, and were elected to serve one term. The former office was inaugurated in 1851-2, and filled by Major Hook, while Aleck Forbes held the latter. In September, 1852, the first batch of artisans arrived to commence the Dry Dock on Mare Island. This subject, however, will be treated in the history of that place.

In December, 1852, there were in all about a dozen houses, including the empty State offices. The Central hotel—the building is still standing, on the corner of Main and Marin streets—was kept by Major Wyatt, while the Vallejo House had passed into the hands of Major Burney, who had left Mariposa county, and settled here. A portion of the frame-work and corrugated iron roof of the former was among those imported by Frank Maryatt.

With the return of the Legislature a slight impetus was given to the prosperity of Vallejo, which only lasted as long as the Government remained. Then was established the first dry-goods store, opened by Wetmore, and the first grocers, kept by Dan Williams. With the departure of the Senate and Assembly, people at once took themselves off to Benicia, many of the houses being bodily removed to that place, leaving behind only two families—the



Brownlees—and some happy bachelors. Times were so dull, socially, that the workmen would come across from the dock then building, to chat by the hour with the only two ladies of which Vallejo could boast; while on their part the many kindly offices granted were sure of receiving the highest appreciation. In April, 1853, the first social event was received with delight. The birth of Miss Della Curtis was hailed with a heartiness of wishes for the welfare of babe and parents only to be found among those inured to hardships. This event was quickly followed by another source of rejoicing in the first marriage, that of Mrs. Perkins to Henry Vanvalkenberg.

On July 4, 1853, we find the first celebration of Independence Day, in Vallejo, by a dinner at the Vallejo House, and bonfire. At the former there sat down two ladies and eight gentlemen, Mrs. Robert and Thomas Brownlee, Captain Stewart, Squire Hook, Edward H. Rowe (elder), West Rowe, Lemuel Hazleton, B. F. Osborne, with Robert and Thomas Brownlee. At an early hour Captain Stewart had donned his full uniform and called on all to celebrate the day with becoming ceremony. A few tar barrels had been procured from the dry-dock and dragged up to the top of what is now called Capitol hill; a pile of brushwood was heaped up to an immense height, and "lashings of whisky" had not been forgotten. At dark the hill was ablaze, making the surrounding country as light as day. Success to the Union was drunk amidst much enthusiasm; the glass and merry song went round; speeches were the order of the day, or rather night, while intense loyalty gave place to noisy enthusiasm, to be replaced by morbid toast making, until one by one the heroes who had braved so many dangers sank to rest on the bosom of mother earth in a slumber which the mighty Bourbon had invoked. In the fall of 1853 there arrived in Vallejo Colonel Leslie, who was the first representative of the majesty of the law who established himself in the city. It is reported that on one occasion, shortly after his arrival, a Mr. Reid was out hunting, and, firing his gun, the charge by mistake shattered the colonel's window and lodged in the wall of the room wherein he lay in bed. In towering wrath he arose, dressed, and remembering that he had somewhere been made a Justice of the Peace, he effected the arrest of the culprit with his own hands, and in turn formed himself into prosecuting attorney, jury, witness, and judge; mulcted Reid in the sum of ten dollars; but to what authority the fine went was never divulged. This is the first record of judicial proceedings in Vallejo. In October, 1853, we have intimation of the first birth of a boy in the person of Robert Brownlee, junior, while death had commenced his havoc by calling away one Joe Sparrow, a native of Virginia, where he left a family. The medical pioneer of the city was Doctor Frisbie, who established himself in 1851; but there was also a Doctor Davis, who practiced shortly after; while the first store where medicine was sold was opened by

Daniel Dodd. It will thus be seen that the little city was fast assuming something like shape; the different trades had been established. Ben Osborne had sometime before commenced working at his business of a carpenter, while Thomas Browlee had opened a forge, where, like Vulcan of old, he wielded his ponderous hammer. It is true that sugar and tea were hard to obtain, and then at an exorbitant figure. Cabbages were sold at 30 cents per head; pork at 30 cents per pound; eggs at 5 dollars per dozen; milk at 50 cents a gallon; and Major Burney, it is said, paid at Napa, whither he had gone on a visit, as high as 16 dollars for a rooster and hen; while for a brace of cats he gave the same price, getting for their progeny a sum of 4 dollars each; but if these prices prevailed fuel was cheap, for the shores of the bay and straits were covered with drift-wood, which had come down the Sacramento and other streams, and was to be had in any quantity simply for the collecting. In this year Robert Brownlee purchased Major Burney's farm, about two miles north of the city, near where the cemetery of the Odd-Fellows and other associations is now inclosed, which in 1857 he exchanged with land lying in another part of the county to General John B. Frisbie. Cows at this time cost from 125 dollars each, and horses were correspondingly high. The district swarmed with wild geese, which committed great depredations, as they do to-day, on the sown ground. Still, notwithstanding their number, the price one fetched on being sold was 25 cents.

In 1853 General Vallejo disposed of a league of land, including the town site, to Sam Purdy, Lieutenant-Governor of the State, James Wadsworth, Martin E. Cooke, and General Denver, for the sum of thirty thousand dollars. They in turn sold out a portion into lots for fifteen thousand dollars; but owing to the great revulsion in business which had set in and the consequent failures of certain banks, the whole amount was never paid to the original owner. General Frisbie, therefore, to smooth matters, returned the fifteen thousand dollars, and agreed to accept a conveyance of the property, which was done.

In the year 1854 the value of property rose considerably, owing to the United States Government have taken possession of Mare Island, with the intention of establishing a Navy Yard upon it. This of course gave a great impetus to immigration; land had to be taken in and surveyed (the different dates of which will be given hereafter), and houses built for the accommodation of the hundreds of workmen and their followers, who would find employment in the yard. Affairs assumed a rosier hue; for with this influx of labor the circulation of money would be increased, while a life of prosperity might be looked for. It was a happy choice which sent Captain David G. Farragut to assume command of the yard, in 1854. This year was one of plenty for Vallejo.

On the last day of the year a heavy gale visited the city; throughout

the night it blew with terrific violence ; the vessels in the harbor which had arrived with dock stores dragged at their anchors, while the iron roof of the Union hotel, on what is now Georgia street, close to the wharf, was rolled up and driven to a distance of a block and a half, such was the force of the wind.

In 1855 we have mention of the first minister in the Reverend William Willmott who was in charge of a circuit of the Methodist Body, and organized a church at Vallejo. Mrs. Farragut, the Misses Turner and others had however formed a Sunday school which would appear to be the basis on which Mr. Willmott founded his congregation. In this year prosperity would appear to have still attended Vallejo ; the tide of immigration which had set in the previous year remained unimpeded ; a daily steamer looked into the harbor on its way from San Francisco to Napa, while a postmaster was appointed in the person of Eleazer Frisbie and mail matter could be looked for with greater regularity, although in the prepostal days Whitmore conducted the distribution of letters with commendable punctuality. Colonel Leslie held the office of postmaster during the years when the legislature sat in the city. On Thursday, November 22, 1855, the inaugural number of the "Vallejo Bulletin" made its appearance as the first representative of the fourth estate in the city. It was published every Thursday evening by A. J. Cox and E. B. Eaton, the latter being the editor, and contains matter of varied interest, the first item being The Psalm of Life, by Longfellow, the opening stanza of which would appear to be a grim satire on the short-lived career of this periodical.

"Tell me not in mournful numbers  
Life is but an empty dream ;  
For the soul is dead that slumbers,  
And things are not what they seem."

The Bulletin numbered exactly four pages of a size slightly larger than legal foolscap. It consisted of six columns of original matter and reports with three of advertisements, while the last page was occupied by clippings from the most prominent exchanges of the old and new world. One article is reproduced. IMPROVEMENTS IN TOWN.—A fine substantial wharf is just completed at the foot of Main street, which, we are informed, is built in a manner that reflects great credit upon the contractors, Messrs. Morrison & Bates. The wharf is about 250 feet in length and 25 feet in width with a "T" 30x60 feet, capable of affording ample accommodations to the largest class steamer. At low water there are about seven feet. It would not surprise us to see, in a few months, this old and once principal street of the town lined on either side with handsome buildings, as it is certainly a very desirable locality for private residences. The United States Hotel, a large



and popular house, is near the wharf, and not far off is Capt. James Warner's elegant brick residence, the first of the kind erected in the town. The public are mainly indebted for this valuable improvement to Capt. Chas. J. Stewart, W. R. Woods, J. B. Frisbie and the Messrs. Bromleys (Brownlees?). From the advertisements we cull, that Daniel Dodd kept a variety store on Georgia street next door to Doctor Collins' office, where he offered fruits Protestant and Catholic prayer books, powder, bibles, nuts and game bags. Frisbie & Rowe and Wyatt & Co. had livery stables on York street. Here we find the card of Pendleton Colston, District Attorney, Solano county, office, adobe, lately occupied by Register of Land office, Benicia, while we find the U. S. Mail between Vallejo and Benicia left the former place at 7 A. M. and 4 P. M. daily, and that the steamer "Guadaloupe," Captain Goodrich, plied from San Francisco to Vallejo and Napa via. Mare Island and Suscol three times a week. The "Vallejo Bulletin" lived six weeks.

From the year 1855 matters can be said to have proceeded well for Vallejo; the opening of the Mare Island Navy Yard was a source from which much benefit was derived. In subsequent years the growth of the city was healthy, and a better class of buildings, public as well as private, were erected, and Vallejo promised to occupy the place on the coast which was always predicted for it. In 1859 and '60, however, the incendiaries' hand was at work, and many houses, which were the land-marks of by-gone days, were destroyed, among them the State House. Progress, was, happily, the watchword, however, and the former unpretentious edifices made way for others of a more noble character, until there are some blocks in the city which will bear favorable comparison with those in any other part of the country. In 1857, Colonel Stockton, of San Francisco, made his appearance, and formed a joint-stock company for establishing a telegraph line between Vallejo and Benicia; preliminaries being satisfactorily settled, the line was in working order in the fall of the same year. In the spring of 1859 it was extended to Napa, and has ever since proved an inestimable boon to the district. W. W. Chapman was the first operator; but Charles H. Hubbs, of Vallejo, was the first who actually manipulated the wires on the new line.

For ten years the prospects of the city were steadily improving; many houses of a more substantial character had given place to the earlier wooden erections, until, in 1867, the "Vallejo Recorder" informs us: "There is not a vacant cottage in town; buildings are engaged two or three months before the lease expires. There were five applications for one residence this week. Lots 50x13 feet cost \$200. Lumber is worth from \$25 to \$30 per thousand." A sure sign of the prosperity of the times was evidenced by the establishment of many Associations calculated to bring good to the public generally, histories of which will be found further on; and in that year the California



Pacific Railroad, from Vallejo to Sacramento, traversing the counties of Solano and Sutter, was commenced. At this interesting epoch, Vallejo had a population of some 3,000; but owing to the impetus given to labor of all kinds, it doubled its numbers in two years after, the expectation being that it would become a great *entrepot* for trade; therefore, arrangements were made for a large shipping business.

Prior to the year 1866, as has been remarked above, the peace, order and good government of Vallejo had been invested in a Justice of the Peace and a Constable; on the 23rd of July of that year, however, a meeting was held and duly organized, by the election of William C. Greaves, President; Eben Hilton, Treasurer; William Aspenall, Secretary, with Amos M. Currier, and S. G. Hilborn, as Town Attorneys, when ordinances were passed, regulating the health and cleanliness of the town, and otherwise providing for its government. In the following February an Act was passed by the Legislature, incorporating the city within the limits; "beginning at the north-east corner of the present town of Vallejo, as recorded by plan drawn in 1856, and running east 3,000 feet; thence running south to the water of the bay of Vallejo, or Napa river; thence running up the channel of said bay, or river, to a point west of the place of beginning; thence running east to place of beginning." The first Board meeting after the incorporation of the city, was held on April 1, 1868, when the following officers were elected: Trustees — A. Powell, President; George W. Lee, H. W. Snow; Marshall, J. L. Likens; Treasurer, J. E. Abbott; Assessor, J. W. Batchellor; Receiver, C. W. Riley; R. D. Hopkins; Health Officer, Dr. L. C. Frisbie; Surveyor, E. H. Rowe. This year, though one wherein Vallejo reached the proud distinction of having a charter of her own, it was one not unattended by disaster. On the morning of February 18th, the Alpha Block, one of the best and most substantial structures in the city, situated on the south-east corner of Georgia and Santa Clara streets, and owned by E. H. Sawyer, was destroyed by fire. The buildings stood on what was, until this catastrophe, the business portion of the town, and consisted of elegant brick buildings, and their destruction, at a loss of over \$40,000, was a sad blow to the interests of the city for a time. But yet another misfortune visited Vallejo this year, namely, the shock of earthquake, which nearly laid San Francisco level with the ground, on the 21st of October, 1868. Vallejo, however, escaped any great damage; though one chimney was laid low, many yards of plastering displaced, and such articles as clocks, mirrors, and lamps broken. On Wednesday, the 24th of June, railroad communication between Vallejo and Fairfield, and Suisun, was inaugurated by an excursion, wherein the Masonic Lodges took part, and it is also to this year that the incorporation of a water company must be credited. In looking back upon the year 1868, it must be put down as one of great excitement to Vallejo, for General Vallejo's prophecy of this city of his be-

coming a great emporium for trade, was on the brink of realization; eighteen months before the town was comparatively small, and its trade and intercourse with the outside world almost *nil*; then the California Pacific Railroad existed only on paper, and its ultimate construction was among the probabilities only. True, the bare probability of such a road being built, drew thousands to the spot, who had never seen the place before, and for years had not even heard of it, save when mentioned in connection with the Navy Yard. As the certainty of the construction of the road began to be realized, Vallejo began to awake from a Rip Van Winkle sleep of fifteen years, and to show signs of real life. Hotels, stores, shops and dwellings began to arise in every direction, and the old resumed an appearance of returning youth. But the railroad had not yet been built, and it was soon found that the little business awakened had been prematurely aroused, and began to relapse into its former somnambulistic state. As the last spring opened, however, the iron horse started from the water front and began to make its way eastward, returning with well laden cars freighted with grain of the rich and abundant harvests of Solano and Yolo; while ships of foreign flags bore it away to other climes; and travelers from beyond the snow mountains and from every part of the State, took part in the whirl of business, and the future of Vallejo was thought to be secure beyond a peradventure. Alas! that this success should have been so short-lived!!!

On the 13th day of November, 1868, the second Board of Trustees was organized under Philip Mager, President, Henry Connolly, and Edward McGettigan, Trustees; Lyman Leslie, City Recorder; George Edgar, City Marshal; J. E. Abbott, City Treasurer; Elisha Whiting, City Assessor; Paul K. Hubbs, Clerk; A. H. Gunning, City Surveyor, and L. C. Frisbie, Health Officer.

For the next few years affairs progressed right merrily. The propriety of erecting street railroads was early mooted, for which a franchise was granted in February. A steamer was put on the line to San Francisco, plying twice a day, in connection with the cars; while a grain elevator was being built. This edifice afterwards fell in 1872, from the want of proper foundations. Vallejo boasted five schools, which were said to be filled with scholars; a large flour mill had been started, and the city fathers looked after the interests invested in them.

On the morning of the 7th of November, 1871, Vallejo was again visited by a destructive fire which desolated one of the principal blocks in the city. The fire broke out under the saloon of John O'Sullivan, on Virginia street, and, from information gained at the time, there is but little doubt that it was caused by the blackened hand of the incendiary. The damage was estimated at considerably over \$50,000.

Let us now draw this sketch of Vallejo to a close. Her interests prospered through the successive regimes of Trustees and other officers.

Appointments had been made whereby the public coffers were filled and trade was brisk ; so much so, indeed, that the possibility of a decline never presented itself to the minds of the people. With General John B. Frisbie as a moving spirit, this conception of prosperity was almost reasonable; but there came a day when his helping hand was of no avail, and the years of plenty, in a great measure enhanced by the presence of the dock yard, gave way to a season of decline, which commenced in 1874, when trade diminished to a lamentable extent, continuing its downward course until 1878, when it, in a measure, again revived, and left its lessened population once more on the increase, with a distant prospect of some day recovering the ground already lost.

The officers of succeeding Boards were as under :

1869—Trustees, A. Powell, President, S. G. Hillborn, Eben Hilton, A. P. Voorhees, and E. T. Starr ; City Recorder, Charles C. Hall ; Marshal, Joseph L. Likins ; Treasurer, J. E. Abbott ; Assessor, J. W. Batchellor ; Clerk, C. A. Kidder. In this year a term of service of two years was first inaugurated. The fourth Board was organized on September 16, 1871, with John B. Frisbie as President, having for his colleagues A. Powell, S. G. Hillborn, A. P. Voorhees, and E. H. Sawyer ; Treasurer, J. E. Abbott ; Assessor, J. W. Batchellor ; Marshal, J. J. Watkinson ; Recorder, T. H. Lawlor ; Clerk, Judson Haycock ; Surveyor, E. H. Rowe. During the tenure of office of this Board an Act was passed whereby the corporation were empowered to borrow \$50,000 as a fund to protect the city from fire, the principal to be paid off in twenty years, and bearing interest at the rate of eight per cent per annum. This Act was passed on January 11, 1872. The original intention was to appropriate this fund for the building of a reservoir on Bolsa hill, an elevation to the north of the town, but the project was abandoned on the formation of a water company. \$15,000 of it was used on digging and planking the Fifth street cut, between North and South Vallejo ; \$8,000 were expended on the construction of the City Hall ; while a considerable sum was spent on the City Park, which to-day only shows a result in a few pickets and eucalyptus trees. Other expenses of a desultory nature were incurred, swallowing the entire original sum, and, though the interest is met with becoming punctuality, the principal debt remains unpaid. South Vallejo had in the meantime claimed an interest in the governing affairs of the city ; therefore, on May 12, 1872, Messrs. J. B. Robinson and Luke Doe were first elected from that portion of the town. On the 6th of March, 1873, John M. Gregory, Jr., was elected City Clerk and Attorney, and on December 24, 1873, J. E. Abbott was elected City Clerk and Attorney *vice* Gregory, resigned, and J. R. English as City Treasurer *vice* Abbott, resigned. The election of the 26th of March, 1874, resulted in the following selection : Trustees, W. Aspinall, President, C. B. Denio, E. H. Sawyer, D. W. Harrier, Henry Connolly, and J. E. Williston ; Treasurer, J. R. English ; Assessor,



William Tormey; Marshall, S. J. Wright, and City Clerk, J. E. Abbott. In the year 1876 a new era had commenced in the municipal election, for a system of elections by wards had been inaugurated, with the accompanying result: First Ward—William Aspenall, Ed. McGittigan, H. K. Snow; Second Ward—E. J. Wilson, President, P. R. Walsh, Charles Weideman; Third Ward—John P. Dare; Treasurer, J. R. English; Assessor, George Rounds; Marshal, Charles Derby; H. H. Snow, City Clerk. The election of March 26, 1878, and the second by wards, resulted; First Ward—D. J. Reese, J. A. McInnes, J. H. Green; Second Ward—E. J. Wilson, President, S. C. Farnham, W. C. Greaves; Third Ward—F. Deininger; Marshal, W. McDonald; Treasurer, J. R. English; Assessor, W. A. Brace; City Clerk, A. J. Brownlie. The Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month.

On the 13th of May, 1878, the Board of Health was organized, and their first meeting held on June 6th, when the following officers were elected: President, James Frost, M.D.; Secretary, A. J. Brownlie; with a Board composed of James Topley, F. Deininger, and John Callender. Meetings held on the last Thursday of each month.

In reference to the different surveys of the city, the first was made in the year 1850 by Surveyor-General Whiting, Edward Rowe, Mason Fay, and Doctor L. C. Frisbie, attended by three or four vaqueros to drive away the wild cattle while the lines were being run. Only that portion of the present city lying south of Georgia street was laid out as then surveyed. It contained about 160 acres of land. In 1856 another survey (already alluded to) was made, embracing a league of land; while a third was made when the town took its rapid start in 1867 or '68.

The site of the city of Vallejo is undoubtedly picturesque; the undulating hills which forty years ago General Vallejo had looked upon with becoming pride, have now been occupied by hundreds of beautiful homes, nearly all of which are snugly ensconced in their own gardens, surrounded by flowers of the richest hue and rarest perfume, while for miles around, the hills which promised so rare a fertility, are now sprouting with a crop, finer than which no other country can produce. To the right and to the left, as far as the eye can reach, we gaze upon nought but the progress of civilization and the richest vegetation. Standing on Capitol hill the placid bay lies at our feet, its surface without a ripple, and glancing from its peaceful bosom the many shadows reflected from the shore. The busy Navy Yard breaks what would otherwise be the monotonous water view; on its other side we have the San Pablo bay, while here and there a white shimmering sail proclaims the passage of some sailing craft, and a cloud of smoke defines the locality of the fast traveling steamboat, and again, as it were the background of the picture, Marin county shows its well marked outline. The Coast range of hills are followed in their uneven line, and grand old Mount Tamalpais stands like a stolid sentry over its lesser brethren. Below is marked the



busy landing-place, whither flock passengers bound to all points of the compass; the shrill shriek of the locomotive is heard above the other sounds, as it is brought back by many an answering echo. Now we hear the more hollow whistle of the steamer, as she arrives or departs with her freight of human beings. Again comes the toll of the time bell giving the hour to the weary workman in the Yard; while the scene is filled in with vessels of great tonnage riding cosily at anchor at the piers, awaiting cargoes of precious wheat to be taken across the seas. To the north the fertile Napa valley stretches away for miles, presenting a landscape of the most ravishing order, backed as it is by mountains of very fantastic shape, while in the foreground we have that glorious monument erected by the Sons of Temperance for *all* orphans whose parents have been called upon to cross the dark river. A noble thought, nobly executed! Pity 'tis that the cares of rude business should blot so fair scene!!

It may not be uninteresting here to produce among the curiosities of literature connected with Vallejo, the specimens of ways in which it can be spelt. It is one of the axioms of English grammar that there is no rule for the spelling and pronunciation of proper names, a rule which would appear to have been carried out with remarkable unanimity by the correspondents of residents in the city. The list was collected in six months from the Vallejo Post-office, and is without doubt a most curious specimen of orthography. They number about one hundred, and are as follows: Val-laho, Valahoe, Valaho, Valao, Vallajo, Vallajoe, Vallajo, Valajoa, Vala Jae, Valaja, Vallago, Valago, Vallaiho, Valeejo, Valeajo, Valeijo, Valoege, Valegoa, Valegio, Valego, Valejo, Vallejo Valle Jo, Vallejoe, Vallejio, Vallejaio, Valler, Vallejeo, Vallegeo, Valleo, Vallejho, Vallerio, Valleso, Valeyo, Valleyo, Valleyoe, Valleyio, Valley Joe, Valleygo, Valleya, Valeyegoy, Vaeygo, Valgeo, Valgo, Valiego, Valigo, Valliejo, Vallijo, Valligo, Valigeo, Valliju, Valljo, Vallo, Valgho, Vally Joe, Valley Jog, Valyo, Vallyo, Vealejo, Veleajho, Velajo, Velaow, Vellajo, Velegio, Veleijo, Velego, Velegoe, Veleo, Vellejo, Vellego, Velleijo, Velighlow, Velijo, Velioe, Veljaho, Vel Ja, Vialojo, Villeiu, Villigj, Villejo, Villgo, Vallejalahoe, Ballejo, Bellejo, Billejo, Salliegro, Levejo, Palesso, Ralejo, Wallajo, Wallego, Wallejo, Walleja, Walleio, Welayego, Yallejo, Yalleyjo, Valley Joow and Valahough.

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CHURCHES—SCHOOLS—ASSOCIATIONS—INDUSTRIES—ETC.—OF VALLEJO.

*Methodist Episcopal Church.*—The appended historical sketch of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the City of Vallejo has been supplied by the Rev. E. I. Jones, the present Pastor—About the middle of 1855, Rev. William Willmott was appointed in charge of a circuit which included the towns of Benicia and Vallejo. During that year and a part of the

one following, he preached at Vallejo and partially organized a Methodist church. Before his advent, Mrs. Commodore Farragut, the Misses Turner and others had conducted a Sunday school, which seems to have been the nucleus around which Mr. Willmott gathered his congregation.

In January, 1856, Gen. John B. Frisbie donated and deeded the present church site to David G. Farragut, David Turner, Simeon Jenkins, Charles H. Oliver and James H. Green "in trust for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the town of Vallejo, etc." Upon this lot, and largely through the exertions of Farragut, was built a small, rough structure which served for a time the double purpose of chapel and school-house. Mr. Willmott went to the Atlantic in the summer of 1856 and his pulpit was supplied by Rev. Geo. B. Taylor.

Rev. C. V. Anthony who became pastor in September, 1856, perfected the organization. Written by him and preserved among the church records is a quaint narrative from which the following extract is taken. "The church was built of planks placed endwise and battened with narrow strips. Only the casings and cornice were planed; the other parts were rough and washed with yellow ochre and lime. The pulpit was a high, old-fashioned concern, with a trap door under the preachers feet, where the sexton who was generally preacher also, kept the sperm oil and other things for lighting the church. In former times this room under the pulpit had served another purpose. The pastor who built the church put a cot down there and, when he retired, simply lifted the trap-door and went to bed, leaving the door up. During my first year, we succeeded in paying the old debt of four hundred dollars. More comfortable seats were provided, the church was painted and a fence put around it. Aforetime, it had been a convenient place for cattle to shade themselves, and on Sundays we were often disturbed by their contentions and sometimes shaken by their scratchings against the corners of the church."

At the close of this pastorate the church had fourteen members. This number does not, however, indicate the actual size or strength of the congregation, which included among its most zealous workers the adherents of other churches which then had no organizations in the town. In Mr. Anthony's narrative, David Turner and Mrs. Farragut, Episcopalians, and Nehemiah Smith, Presbyterian, are mentioned as having been notably active and helpful. Dr. Woodbridge, Presbyterian, held services in the church every Sunday afternoon but had no organization.

The following named pastors succeeded, their terms beginning in September of the years specified: James Hunter, 1858; Kilpatrick, 1859; W. B. May, 1860; J. W. Hines, 1861; B. F. Myers, 1863; P. L. Haynes, 1865.

During the pastorate of the last named, the membership nearly doubled and the church was greatly improved by the addition of a vestibule and bell tower.

Rev. Galen A. Pierce became pastor in September, 1867, and had a notably acceptable term of two years, at the close of which there were fifty-five members and a property valued at \$4,600.

Rev. Charles E. Rich followed in August, 1869. The city was more populous and prosperous during his term than before or since. The congregation so increased that the church was lengthened fifteen feet, a vestry-room was added, and the whole edifice so improved as to be substantially, a new one. A debt was, however, incurred which greatly embarrassed the church for about seven years. In August, 1870, there were ninety-five members and property valued at \$7,000, including the present parsonage, then but recently acquired.

Rev. A. K. Crawford was pastor for one year from September, 1872, reporting fifty-five members at the close of his term.

Rev. W. S. Urmy followed in 1873 and remained three years, at the end of the second of which he reports the membership at one hundred and \$2,600 as having been expended upon the church property, mostly in partial payment of the debt heretofore mentioned. At the close of his term the membership had decreased to seventy-one and nearly one-half of these were nominal or non-resident.

Rev. Ed. I. Jones, the present pastor—1879—became such in September, 1876, at which time removals had so decimated the membership and business depressions so discouraged those remaining, that this pastorate opened unhopefully, especially, in view of the fact that there was still an indebtedness of about \$1,500. On Sunday eve, December 8, 1878, the church was almost totally destroyed by fire, originating, it is supposed in a defective flue. The proceeds of an insurance policy for \$1,500 were applied upon the indebtedness. The society now numbers about fifty, owns the fine church site, upon which is a vestry-room and a parsonage. Geo. W. Smith, James H. Green, Samuel Kitto, John Q. Adams and Frank L. Carlton are the trustees.

Throughout its twenty-five years of existence this church has been peculiarly impeded by the floating character of the population and by successive drafts upon its original resources consequent upon the organization of four other Protestant churches in the town. Its officers not vanquished by more than ordinary obstacles, are hopefully planning for the future.

*First Presbyterian Church.*—Previous to the arrival of the present pastor, Revd. N. B. Klink, in Vallejo, the Reverend S. Woodbridge, D. D. of Benicia, had preached to a congregation in this city for several years on the afternoon of every sabbath. At the time there was no Presbyterian church; service was therefore held in the Methodist Episcopalian building. On ascertaining that it was Mr. Klink's intention to reside permanently in Vallejo Dr. Woodbridge resigned the duties to him; and the Methodists, being now without a minister, invited him to supply them, and granted the use of their



house of worship until September, 1863. The First Presbyterian Church was organized in the month of November, 1862, while they were still worshipping in the Methodist Church. According to public notice, the congregation met in the Methodist Episcopalian Church, November 22, 1862, for the purpose, if the way be clear, of organizing a Presbyterian Church. The meeting was called to order, and opened with prayer. The Reverend N. B. Klink was chosen chairman of the meeting, and Henry Blackman, secretary. The following named persons being present with letters of dismissal from other Presbyterian Churches, and voluntarily wishing to be associated together for Divine and Godly living, were, on motion, formed into a Presbyterian Church of the "old school," within the bounds of Benicia Presbytery and Synod of the Pacific: Mrs. Helen Williamson; Carrie E. Frisbie; Susan Callender; Elizabeth Chapman; Isabella Rule; Eliza Roloff; Phebe A. Frisbie; Sylvia M. Burns; J. Wright; J. Tessroe, with Messrs. Stephen Klink and E. H. M. Bailey. There being none present who were willing to accept the office of "Ruling Elder," the church was only provisionally organized.

The Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and also the Form of Government and the Directions for Worship, were adopted as their standards of Faith and Order; and A. Powell, Daniel Williamson, James Topley, E. H. M. Bailey, and Stephen Klink, were elected a Board of Trustees, and were also chosen as a building committee, when immediate steps were taken for the erection of a house of worship on two lots on the northwest corner of Marin and Carolina streets, which were the gift of General John B. Frisbie.

During the summer of 1863 the building of the church was proceeded with; and on the first Sunday in September in that year the opening sermon was preached by the Reverend A. Fairbairn; yet, though incomplete, worship was maintained in it for full two years, when, on November 5, 1865, it was solemnly dedicated to the worship of Almighty God by the Reverend Doctor Woodbridge. The edifice, along with the bell, cost \$8,500.

In April, 1866, Messrs. E. H. M. Bailey and L. G. Oliver were elected Ruling Elders; and on May 8th, they having been ordained, were duly installed as officers of the church, on which ceremony its organization became complete. The present session consists of Samuel Duncan, C. B. Towle, and Robert B. Barr, with whom is associated the acting pastor. The whole number of members received from the organization is 185; the number now in membership being 77, while the Sabbath School, under the superintendency of Elder Robert B. Barr, numbers about 100.

*The Church of the Ascension—Protestant Episcopal.*—For many years prior to 1867, service, according to the form of the Protestant Episcopal Church, had been held in Vallejo; but it was not until the 21st of July, of that



year, that any steps had been taken to form a permanent association of the kind. On that Sunday the services were conducted by the Bishop of the Diocese, the Right Reverend Wilbraham Kip, and the Reverends Messrs. Treadway and Perry, during which, intimation was given that a meeting of the association would be held at the office of the Honorable Paul K. Hubbs, on the Monday following. The meeting was duly convened, and an association incorporated under the laws of the State, and the Diocese of California, under the name as given above, the following gentlemen subscribing to the Declaration and Articles of Association: Paul K. Hubbs, T. H. Gardner, R. D. Hopkins, W. H. Lamb, Paul Shirley, Jas. Price, L. C. Fowler, Wm. Taylor, Jr., Casper Schenck, Thomas A. Thornton, Ed. A. Willats, Jas. A. Green, A. T. Hawley, W. C. Root, Geo. Loomis, Wm. A. Parker, J. W. Haskin, and W. H. Stanley. The subjoined vestrymen were, thereupon, elected: Messrs. Paul K. Hubbs, Wm. H. Lamb, L. C. Fowler, J. H. K. Barbour, Wm. A. Parker, J. W. Browne, W. C. Root, Wm. Taylor, Jr., J. W. Haskin, Philip Hickburn, and R. D. Hopkins, with Messrs. Fowler and Hubbs, as Senior and Junior Wardens, and Messrs. Hopkins and Lamb, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. After the election of these officers the Rev. A. C. Treadway was unanimously chosen the first Rector of the Church of the Ascension, at Vallejo. In the course of time laws and by-laws, for the governing of the executive body, were framed and brought into effect. On the 29th of July, a building committee was appointed, with power to solicit subscriptions in aid of the erection of a church. General John B. Frisbie generously presented them with two lots whereon to erect the sacred edifice; plans and specifications were gratuitously prepared by Mr. Gunning, architect, of Mare Island; and a Fair was held by the ladies of the congregation and their friends, to still further augment the funds. The foundation stone was laid on the 4th of May, 1868.

On the 8th of April, 1868, Mr. Treadway, in a letter of great feeling, tendered his resignation, which was duly accepted, in fitting terms, in meeting assembled, when it was resolved to invite the Rev. Dr. Breck to take charge of the parish, in connection with the Associate Mission, which he had established in Benicia. In the meantime, Mr. Treadway had returned to New York; but such was the estimation in which he was held, that it was unanimously resolved on the 15th of July, to invite him to return to his former charge, which he signified his willingness to do; and on the 10th of December he once more presided at a vestry meeting of the parish. During this period the building of the church progressed satisfactorily. On the evening of the 9th of March, 1870, the introduction of gas into the building was completed; and on Sunday, the 13th, the edifice was duly consecrated by the Bishop of California, before an overflowing congregation. On the 5th of August, 1871, Mr. Treadway once more tendered his resignation, the acceptance of which was declined, on the plea "that the interests of the church

would not prosper so well under the ministry of any other person," when the Rector signified his willingness that the question of his retirement remain *in statu quo*; he, however, again opened the question on the 7th of February, 1872, stating his intention of returning home to the East in April or May following.

Still, the vestry were unwilling to part with their pastor, who, they suggested, should be tendered a leave of absence; but at last he prevailed, and his resignation was accepted, to take effect on the 31st of December, 1872. His farewell sermon is described as being a deep utterance of pastoral love, which was both appropriate and impressive. A successor was found in the Rev. Adam A. McAllister, who was nominated to the vacant Rectorship on the 13th of November, 1872. On the 21st of December, the vestry lost, by death, one of its most active members, in Paymaster Mead, U. S. N., when condolatory resolutions were directed to be forwarded to his family; the meeting, however, whose painful duty it was to pass the foregoing, had a more pleasant one in thanking the "ladies of the Episcopal Benevolent Association of Vallejo, for having realized the means, and by their generosity, devoted them to the liquidation of the debts of the Church of the Ascension from embarrassment, and enabling the church, unfettered by pecuniary obligations, to renew and enlarge its work." On the 5th of January, 1874, Mr. McAllister now resigned, when the pulpit was offered to and accepted by the Rev. E. L. Greene, who, on account of family affliction, sent in his resignation on the 18th of February, 1875; it was accepted; and on the 25th of the same month, the Rev. W. H. Moore was offered the parish. At a meeting of the vestry, held on the 16th of June, 1875, it was resolved to move the church back 25 feet, which was subsequently carried out, and the ground graded, a fence built, shrubbery planted, and the premises otherwise adorned. The funds of the parish were in some wise aided by a bequest from the late Senior Warden, Paul K. Hubbs, who had died on the 17th of November previously. In the death of this gentleman, the church and parish lost one of its staunchest supports; it was mainly to his good offices that the "Church of the Ascension" was organized; and the esteem in which he was held is touchingly alluded to in the resolution directing realization of the bequest. On the 6th of April, 1876, death had again entered in; once more there was a vacancy among the wardens; this time, in the person of Mr. W. C. Root, the first person confirmed in the parish. He was elected a vestryman at the time of the organization of the parish, and had been one of its officers in successive years.

At a meeting held on the 18th of April, the Reverend W. A. Moore announced his wish to resign, which took effect on the 15th of May. Mr. McAllister once more temporarily occupied the pulpit until the appointment of a successor, who was found in Dr. Chapman, who in his turn left the parish for his home in Sacramento in August, and was succeeded by the



John Brownlie





Reverend George B. Allen, on the 23d October, 1876. He now resigned on the 22 November, and again was the Church of the Ascension without an officiating clergyman of its own. The parish was then offered to the Reverend R. T. Kline, whose acceptance was made known on the 2d of January, 1877. This clergyman remained with his congregation the better part of eleven months, when he handed in a letter of retirement on the 21 of November of the same year. Mr. McAllister again occupied the pulpit from Sunday to Sunday, until on December 23, 1877, it was resolved to call the Reverend David F. MacDonald, D. D. from Arkansas. This gentleman is the present incumbent.

Dr. MacDonald was, as far back as 1856, the first missionary of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this county. He was located by the Bishop of the Diocese at Benicia, where he labored amongst all classes with much zeal. He had often conducted services in the parish where he is now rector in a small building used as a Methodist church, and it was a graceful remembrance of former efforts which suggested, after the lapse of so many years, the tendering of the pulpit to him. Long may he live to fill it.

The Church of the Ascension is situated on Georgia street, between Napa and Sutter, and stands on an elevated knoll which commands a fine view of the harbor and surrounding country, and has a seating capacity of two hundred and fifty. A magnificent bell has been presented to it by Henry Sanger, Esq. Sunday services are held at 11 A. M., and Sunday-school at 2.30 P. M. There has been no evening service during the present winter. The members number eighty. The superintendent of the Sunday-school is Wilberforce Dudley; the vestrymen—Professor W. F. Roe, Wilberforce Dudley, Thomas Thornton, J. W. Breed, A. S. Carman, S. R. English, John Harris, O. W. Vanderlip, C. H. Hubbs, R. B. Loyall, and J. C. Edgecumbe; the senior and junior wardens, and secretary and treasurer being respectively Messrs. Hubbs, Roe, Breed, and Thornton.

*First Regular Baptist Church.*—This church was organized on November 21, 1869, a meeting being convened by public notice calling on all those interested in establishing a regular Baptist church in Vallejo, to meet at Red Men's Hall. The Reverend W. W. Hickie was chosen moderator, and Eben Hilton, clerk. Each of the brethren and sisters herein named presented themselves, and were accepted by each other in unanimous vote of fellowship for the purpose of organizing a gospel church, and being fellow members of the same: W. W. Hickie, Eben Hilton, Esther Hilton, Stephen Hathaway, Eleazer Frisbie, H. H. Dwyer, J. C. Voorhees, Anna Case, Sanford Baker, G. W. Morgan and wife.

On motion of Mr. Frisbie, the Articles of Faith and Church Covenant, as given in the Baptist Manual, published by the American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia, was read, and by unanimous vote, as follows: pastor,

Rev. W. W. Hickie; deacons, H. H. Dwyer and Eleazer Frisbie; treasurer, Eben Hilton; clerk, Sanford Baker, was adopted. The Rev. W. W. Hickie continued his labors with the church until June 1st, following, when he abandoned the profession, and public worship was discontinued until December 2, 1870, when the church called the Rev. J. H. Ruby as a successor, and then commenced to hold worship in Farragut Hall; and on June 13, 1871, an unanimous call was extended to Mr. Ruby to become its pastor. He accepted, and continued in that capacity until September 1st, when he resigned. On November 17, 1871, the church called the Rev. E. B. Hatch to its pastorate.

On January 7, 1872, the American Baptist Home Mission Society having granted material aid towards the building of a suitable house for public worship, a committee was appointed with power to solicit subscriptions for building the same. In November following they reported having received subscriptions enough to warrant the commencement of a proper building, and that General J. B. Frisbie had donated a lot and executed a deed for the purpose; but the piece of ground not being in a desirable locality, it was thought best to purchase a plot on Capitol, between Marin and Sonoma streets. A committee to superintend the structure was chosen, and the work begun. On March 1, 1873, the church and lot, which had cost over \$4,000, was dedicated to the service of God.

The Rev. E. B. Hatch continued to be its pastor until February 1, 1876, when, tendering his resignation, it was accepted. On that date the Rev. R. F. Parshall was appointed to the pastorate, and, entering upon his duties on March 26th, he continued to perform them until December 13, 1876, when he resigned.

The church was without a pastor and public worship until April 1, 1877, when the Rev. T. A. Gill, Chaplain U. S. N., was ordered to the Navy Yard. On his arrival a committee was appointed to wait upon him, with the request that he preach on Sunday mornings, with which petition he cheerfully complied and entered upon the duties for an indefinite period. Mr. Gill and his wife labored with the church until May 28, 1878, when he was detached from the Yard, thus leaving the church once more without a pastor. At this juncture Rev. Frank B. Rose, U. S. N., Chaplain on board U. S. S. "Pensacola," volunteered his services and continued them until October 13, when he, too, left the district. On October 27, 1878, the Rev. E. H. Gray, D.D., was called from Washington, D. C., and he now directs the religious welfare of the First Regular Baptist Church.

The present membership of the church is sixty-nine, the officers being as follows: Pastor, Rev. E. H. Gray, D.D.; Deacons, H. H. Dwyer, Eleazer Frisbie, and P. E. Jeffries; Treasurer, H. H. Dwyer; Clerk, W. B. Vankirk; Trustees, H. H. Dwyer, Eleazer Frisbie, P. E. Jeffries, A. McKannan, and W. B. Vankirk.

The Sunday School connected with the church was organized February 1, 1870, Henry Hall, Superintendent. In June, 1871, J. C. Voorhees was elected in that capacity, and filled it till January 1, 1879, when Mrs. Veeder was appointed and now holds the position.

*The Advent Christian Church of Vallejo.*—The Advent doctrine was first introduced into Vallejo by Elder D. D. Reid, of Santa Clara county, in the fall of 1870. The first sermon was preached in the Methodist church. The first series of meetings were held by Elder Miles Grant, of Boston, Mass., in the Presbyterian church, the pastor most warmly encouraging and supporting the good work. No attempt was at this time made to organize a church, as it was supposed the converts would be well nourished and fed by the pastor of the Presbyterian Church, who had been so blessed in the revival. But very soon after Elder Grant's departure he began to oppose the doctrines which had done so much good, and it became evident that the believers must organize a church of their own. This was done on June 13, 1871, in the building known as George's Place, a building bought in New York and shipped around the Horn to San Francisco, set up and used in that city and then taken down and removed to Vallejo. It had been used for the vilest purposes of those early times, and it was indeed a novelty to hear within its walls the voice of prayer, of praise, and of truth. The building had been thoroughly cleansed and refitted for its new work.

The charter members were Job Washburn, Samuel Jamison, A. J. Young, David West, George Redden, Mrs. George Redden, Mrs. Statira Snow, Mrs. Ella P. Pettis, Mrs. Hannah P. Moore, and Mrs. A. J. Young. Many others were in sympathy with the organization, but did not unite till afterward. The officers consisted simply of a deacon and a clerk, Job K. Washburn and A. J. Young, respectively, holding the positions. This church was organized under Elder D. D. Reid. The first pastor was Elder O. R. Fassett, from Minnesota, who had charge of the church for two years, preaching one-half the time; while Mrs. Fassett preached the other half. They resided in San Francisco. During this pastorate the chapel was built on Capitol Hill, on a lot donated by General J. B. Frisbie. (Lot 14, in block 306). It was a plain, unpretending structure 32x52, and cost about one thousand dollars. The house was dedicated on Sunday, March 24, 1872, Elders Fassett and Reid officiating. Experience soon proved the location of the chapel too inaccessible to the people, especially in the rainy season, and it was decided to move it. In April, 1874, it was moved to Georgia street and located on lot No. 6, block 284, owned by Mr. Tripp and leased to the church for this purpose, where it still stands. One hundred and fifty persons in all, from time to time, have become members, but removals into other places have reduced the membership to fifty, which has been the average number since the first year of its history. Elder H. F. Carpenter became pastor of the



church on July 1, 1875, preaching his first sermon on July 4, and remains its pastor at the present time, February 21, 1879. During every year of his ministry he has done work of the most satisfying character and made many converts. The church has maintained three prayer meetings every week, characterized by warmth of devotion; while the Sunday congregations have usually been very good. The chapel has been neatly refitted within, and, while the exterior is not particularly inviting, the interior is very pleasing and commodious.

A Sunday-School was organized December 10, 1871, which numbers at present between forty and fifty members. Its interest and numbers are now increasing. Its present Superintendent is George W. Morton. The Church, in spite of the severest financial depression, has been always enabled to meet its obligations without resorting to fairs, festivals, lotteries, grab-bags and other unwarrantable methods, and is to-day out of debt. The present officers are: Samuel Jamison, Job K. Washburn, Elders; William H. Pennell, John Thompson, Deacons; John Pettis, Treasurer; and Andrew J. Young, Clerk.

SECRET SOCIETIES, ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.—Vallejo is second to no other city in the State of California in the condition of its Lodges, save, perhaps, with the single exception of San Francisco. The Masonic Order, as well as that of the Odd Fellows, is in a most flourishing condition, while the benefits which they confer is dispensed with a due regard to the lessons inculcated by the several Orders.

*Naval Chapter, No. 35, R. A. M.*—The above Chapter was organized under dispensation on May 20, 1868, and granted a charter on October 20th, of the same year, its chartered members being: Lyman Leslie, J. M. Brown, B. J. Taylor, P. B. Miller, Dan. Harrington, Benjamin Benas, E. G. Moden, T. J. Crowlie and Philip Hichborn, the officers being Lyman Leslie, High Priest; J. M. Brown, King; B. J. Taylor, Scribe. Since its first institution the number of members has considerably augmented, there being now no fewer than ninety-four on the roll. The officers for the current year are: H. P., M. Myers; K., F. D. Mead; S., R. J. McDaniel; C. of H., Jonathan Bond; P. S., James Roney; R. A. C., E. K. Holmes; M. of 3d V., A. B. Bertoschky; M. of 2d V., O. H. Butler; M. of 1st V., J. H. Jordan; Guard, John Thompson. The Chapter meets on the second Wednesday of each month.

*Naval Lodge, No. 87, F. & A. M.*—This is the oldest Lodge in Vallejo, and was organized under dispensation on July 17, 1855. The first meeting was held on August 4, 1855, when the following officers were appointed: William Wilmot, W. M.; Henry Hook, S. W.; Joseph R. Bird, J. W.; Robert Brownlee, Treas.; William Aspenall, Secy.; L. W. Bean, S. D.; Denis



Meagher, J. D.; John Lee, Tyler. On May 7, 1856, the Charter was granted, the members being Abraham Powell, W. M.; William Aspenall, S. W.; and Isaac Hobbs, J. W. The first meeting held under the new charter was convened on May 28, 1856, with Deputy Grand Master William S. Wells, presiding, when the following were elected to the various offices: Joseph R. Bird, W. M.; Benjamin R. Mitchell, S. W.; William Aspenall, J. W.; Robert Brownlee, Treasurer; Alexander Guffy, Secretary; L. W. Bean, S. D.; Denis, Meagher, J. D.; and John Lee, Tyler. The present officers are: W. M. Christian Theodore B. Hallen; S. W., George William Simonton; J. W., Martin J. Wright; Treasurer, John E. Abbott; Secretary, George F. Mallett; S. D., William Brownlie; J. D., James H. Jordan; Stewards, Daniel W. Harrier and Rimmer Johann Rimmers Aden; Marshal, Andrew Jackson McPike; Organist, Nathaniel G. Hilton; Tyler, Henry Dexter; Trustees, John Brownlie, Martin J. Wright, George F. Mallett. The number of members at present on the roll is one hundred and two. The Naval Lodge meets on the third Tuesday of each month, at the Masonic Hall, N. W. corner of Virginia and Marin streets.

*Solano Lodge, No. 229, F. & A. M.*—Was organized under dispensation on May 14, 1873, and received the charter on the 18th October, 1873, the chartered members being: John Quincy Adams, P. M.; Ellis Edward Hartwell; Frank E. Brown; Orren H. Butler; William Carter; Frank W. Cushing; John F. Denning; George C. Demmon; John K. Duncan; Joseph C. Edgecumbe; John Farnham; John Frey; William E. Frisby; Alden L. Hatheway; F. D. Higson; Adam A. McAllister; Edwin A. McDonald; Charles A. Moore; Mattison Myers, P. M.; William H. Pettis; George P. Plaisted; Ambrose J. Plummer; William F. Roe; John B. Robinson; David W. Rogers; George E. Sides; Edward T. Starr; George Thompson; Joseph F. Wendell; John T. Wells and John W. Winton. The officers under dispensation were: F. W. Cushing, W. M.; J. T. Wells, S. W.; W. H. Pettis, J. W.; E. T. Starr, Treasurer; A. L. Hatheway, Secretary; Rev. A. A. McAllister, Chaplain; John Farnham, S. D.; George C. Demmon, J. D.; J. C. Edgecumbe, Marshal; Frank E. Brown, organist; O. H. Butler, W. E. Frisby, Stewards; Henry Stahl, Tyler, who continued to hold office until the next election. The Solano Lodge is in a flourishing condition. There are seventy-four members on the roll, who meet on the first Monday of each month. The present officers are: R. W. M., O. H. Butler; S. W., James Roney; J. W., A. B. Bertoschky; Treasurer, A. J. Plummer; Secretary, G. C. Demmon; S. D., D. M. McCool; J. D., J. W. Van Meeder; Marshal, John Harris; Stewards, J. W. Winton, D. M. Hilliard; and Tyler, John Thompson.

*Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Golden State Lodge No. 216.*—Was organized in 1872, the chartered members being: John Hamill; V. W. Beckford; I. M. Ruton; I. S. Halsey; F. J. Trapp; S. E. Wilson; S. N. Jamison;

A. Clark; C. H. Hubbs; Jos. Burton; C. H. Hodgkins; H. Bruce; M. M. Moore; J. P. Fraser; J. Hobbs; George Woods; M. Handford, and S. E. Wright. The first officers who served were: F. J. Trapp, N. G.; I. S. Halsey. V. G.; S. E. Wilson, R. S.; C. H. Hubbs, P. S., and I. M. Ruton, Treasurer. This lodge is in a most flourishing condition, there being 130 members on its roll, the officers for the present year being: William Fraser, N. G.; John McDonald, V. G.; George W. Martin, R. S.; William Pressy, P. S., and E. M. McDonald, Treasurer. Day of meeting, Wednesday of each week. Trustees, I. S. Halsey, C. H. Hubbs, and B. Benas.

*Knights of Pythias, Washington Lodge, No. 7.*—Of all the charitable organizations in the country, perhaps no other has labored under greater disadvantages, and with more beneficial results, than the Knights of Pythias. The first lodge was organized in Washington, D. C., February 19, 1864, in the midst of civil strife, when society was in a disrupted state, and all secret organizations considered political. Its importance and numbers have, however, steadily advanced, and now its condition is most flourishing.

Washington Lodge, of Vallejo, No. 7, was organized on September 17, 1869, and is the only one in the State which can claim the honor of being organized by the Supreme Chancellor of the world.

The number of chartered members was eighty-eight, while the first officers who served were as under:

C. C., A. J. Perkins; V. C., C. M. Price; R. S., A. C. Doan; F. S., R. S. Williams; B., G. A. Poor; G., E. A. Hersey; I. S., John Kennedy; O. S., J. W. Williams.

The number of members on the roll for the present year is forty-two, while the officers elected on January 1, 1879, were: P. C., J. Pincomb; C. C., H. M. Moore; V. C., C. H. Bennett; K. of R. and S., J. W. Jeffries; M. of E., H. Englebright; M. of F., George A. Buxton; Prelate, J. W. Williams; M. at A., T. K. Watson; I. G., W. H. Kenyon; O. G., H. J. Pelham. The Knights of Pythias meet at Red Mens' Hall, every Thursday evening.

*Improved Order of Red Men, Samoset Tribe, No. 22.*—Was instituted June 4, 1869, with the undermentioned chartered members: W. C. Lemon; O. L. Henderson; H. J. Ford; C. M. Price; Benjamin D. Egery; Philip Mager; W. Williston; J. Brownlie; A. P. Alexander; I. G. Martin; L. M. Knibbs; T. W. Woodward; James Currier; J. G. Smith; Henry Dexter; W. H. Green; M. G. Winchell; W. E. Bristow; Joseph Anderson; James Borton; John Lawrence; Wm. M. Starr; Frank A. Leach; J. H. Powell; A. S. Carman; L. C. Kincade; John Thompson; Van B. Smith; John W. Williams; Frank R. Currier; James Frost; Martin J. Wright; John S. Souther; Ed. D. G. Fields; Aug. M. Street; O. H. Bryant; Edward W. O'Brien; M. D. Tobin; F. R. Arnold; L. S. Patriguin; Charles E. Young;

O. K. Doan ; George Bassford ; George L. Quant ; M. C. Whitney ; John C. Hale ; Thomas Evans ; James Blessington ; A. J. Chapman ; R. Caverly ; J. N. Sanct ; James Jordan ; Con. Lunney ; J. G. Cornwall ; A. J. Perkins ; C. B. Edwards ; W. M. Sullivan ; Charles J. Eger ; Wm. Moore ; F. C. Bageley ; D. M. McCool ; John Reidfee ; Wm. M. Stannus ; Thomas McFarland ; Benjamin F. Pressey ; J. N. Stevenson ; A. J. McPike ; J. R. Hogan ; A. C. Doan ; John McCarthy ; Walter F. Patterson ; H. S. Chappelle ; John Lambert ; George A. Poor ; John Hesketh ; George P. Plais-ted ; N. D. Toby ; James G. Massey ; F. D. Higson ; N. Carmichael ; I. M. Ruton ; W. G. Walsh ; Milton Warner ; John McPhee ; James Carter ; Alexander Anderson. The officers of the Tribes first appointed were W. C. Lemon, Sachem ; O. L. Henderson, Senior Sagamore ; H. J. Ford, Junior Sagamore ; C. M. Price, Chief of Records ; B. D. Egery, Keeper of Wampum ; P. Mager, First Warrior ; W. Williston, Second ; J. Brownlie, Third ; A. P. Alexander, Fourth ; J. G. Martin, First ; L. W. Knibbs, Second ; O. C. Chamberlain, Third ; T. W. Woodward, Fourth Braves ; James Currier, First ; J. G. Smith, Second Powwow ; Henry Dexter, Guard of Forest ; W. H. Green, Guard of the Wigwam ; M. G. Winchell, First ; W. E. Bristow, Second Sannap ; and Joseph Anderson, Prophet. The membership at one time reached 98, but there are now only 30 on the roll. The Order is in good standing ; it owns their hall furniture, a burial plot in the Union Cemetery, all of which property is unincumbered, while the Tribe is free from any financial embarrassment. The officers for the year are : Sachem, Thomas Raines ; Senior Sagamore, Charles H. Bennett ; Junior Sagamore, P. McArdle ; Chief of Records, John E. Hubbard ; Keeper of Wampum, M. G. Winchell ; Financial Chief, James G. Smith ; Prophet, J. O. Allison ; First Sannap, John W. Williams ; Second Sannap, B. D. Egery ; First Warrior, James Jury ; Second Warrior, James Blessington ; Third Warrior, Ed. W. O'Brien ; Fourth Warrior, O. C. Chamberlain ; First Brave, James Frost ; Second Brave, R. W. Burton ; Third Brave, Alex. S. Smith ; Fourth Brave, John Lorson ; First Powwow, H. D. Richardson ; Second Powwow, Frank R. Currier ; Guard of the Forest, Van B. Smith ; and Guard of the Wigwam, Barnard Tissell.

*Grand Army of the Republic, Farragut Post, No. 12, G. A. R.*—The objects and aims of the Association are attending to the sick and wounded soldiers who served honorably during the great rebellion ; the burial of their departed comrades, and to cherish and encourage friendly feelings for one another, which should animate the bosoms of all true patriots. This post was organized on February 19, 1868, and re-organized in accordance with general orders from Head Quarters in August, 1869. The chartered members were Edward G. Haynes, William G. Oberend, N. C. McMegonegal, R. L. Duncan, E. C. Taylor, E. H. Forrester, E. S. Jenkins, John Ashton,



Joseph Anderson and John L. Gamble, of whom Messrs. Duncan and Taylor are now deceased. The first officers elected to serve were J. L. Gamble, Post Commander; W. G. Oberend, Senior Vice-Commander; Ed. C. Taylor, Junior Vice-Commander; Ed. G. Haynes, Post Adjutant; E. H. Forrester, Quartermaster. The number of members at present on the roll is thirty-one while the officers for the present term are: Post Commander, George L. Voorhees; Senior Vice-Commander, James Blessington; Junior Vice-Commander, Thomas Riley; Quartermaster, George A. Buxton; Chaplain, John Smith; Officer of the day, Robert K. Hall and Officer of the Guard, James L. Cilley. It is gratifying to remark that the funds of the Post are in a satisfactory condition, no less a sum than four thousand six hundred dollars having been paid out of its coffers between the date of its organization and January 1, 1879.

*Ancient Order of United Workmen, Vallejo Lodge No. 75.*—This society, a new one in the State of California, was organized and chartered on the 6th day of January, 1879. It has already a roll of eighty-three members, while its officers are: P. M. W., Samuel Kitto; M. W., George F. Mallett; G. F. M., G. Winchell; O., William McWilliams; recorder, James G. Smith; financier, Robert B. Barr; receiver, S. S. Drake; guide, G. W. Martin; J. W., Charles H. Bennett, O. W., George W. Edgecumbe. Days of meeting, Monday in every week.

*The "Vallejo Society of California Pioneers."*—Was first established on the 27th of May, 1869, having for its object the cultivation of social intercourse and union among its members, and the creation of a fund for charitable purposes in their behalf; to collect and procure information connected with the early settlement and subsequent history of the county, and to form such libraries and cabinets, and pursue such literary and scientific objects as from time to time be determined, and in all appropriate matters to advance the interests and perpetuate the memory of those whose sagacity, energy and enterprise induced them to settle in the wilderness and become founders of a new State. The chartered members of the association were Thomas Aylward, Milo J. Ayers, Gustave Bergwell, Henry Buckland, Henry Clayton, Fred Coyan, Henry Englebright, George Edgar, George B. Edgecumbe, W. P. Edwards, John B. Frisbie, Thomas Gunderson, Alexander Guffy, Jacob F. Griffin, George Gordon, Joseph G. Garrison, R. D. Hopkins, J. Hamill, G. N. Hutchinson, I. S. Halsey, Isaac Hobbs, Henry Hendrickson, Paul K. Hubbs, John G. Hudson, Ernest Hauff, Charles C. Hall, W. D. Jones, Thomas Keating, John L. King, James R. Lee, Peter Laughran, John A. Lay, O. A. Munn, Lyman Mitchell, Charles Murphy, James Mann, William McKenna, F. Marion, John C. McLeod, W. Narvaez, Charles O'Donnell, B. T. Osborn, A. Powell, George A. Poor, R. Palmer, John Rose, William



Rawson, John Roache, E. C. Reynolds, D. C. Ross, W. S. Ricker, J. Regan, O. H. Spencer, Henry Stege, Charles C. Southard, John Spruce, A. J. Shute, E. T. Seavy, W. H. Vandine, John Woodall, Thomas K. Watson, Edward Welsh, William Williams, John Ward. At this time General M. G. Vallejo was elected an honorary member, while there were also admitted John Morgan, J. D. Cornwall, W. Sullivan, C. C. Hall, John Walker, C. M. Poor, W. C. Brooks, J. M. Findlay, J. V. Saunders, A. Strohsohl, E. B. Campbell, W. H. Cheever, J. C. French, J. H. K. Barbour, M. Morrison, A. Peterson, J. A. Carnahan, E. Whiting. The first officers elected were: president, John B. Frisbie; vice-presidents, Paul K. Hubbs, Gustave Bergwell, Abraham Powell; corresponding secretary, Robert D. Hopkins; treasurer, Isaac S. Halsey; directors, Isaac Hobbs, O. H. Spencer, Thomas Aylward; and marshal, Thomas K. Watson.

Many of these early pioneers have long ago been gathered to their fathers, while there are still a few of the old-timers left whose grey hairs tell of Time's onward flight. They, too, will ere long be called upon to make the mysterious journey; happily, therefore, that their sons still live to perpetuate the noble example set by their fathers in the establishment of so well favored a society as is that of the California Pioneers. The number of members at present on the roll of the association is thirty-five, with Charles H. Hubbs, president; George Nye, Frank Shirland, and W. S. Brooks, vice-presidents; William P. Edwards, secretary; Isaac S. Halsey, treasurer; Thomas K. Watson, marshal, and Thomas Aylward, John C. McLeod, and J. A. Saunders, directors. The honorary members are General M. G. Vallejo, Captain Paul Shirley, and Rear-Admiral Enoch G. Parrott, of the United States Navy, and General John B. Frisbie.

*Vallejo Masonic Hall Association.*—At a regular meeting of Naval Lodge, No. 87, F. & A. M., held at their hall in Vallejo on April 19, A. D. 1866, the following named persons were elected trustees to organize, incorporate and manage the affairs of a joint-stock company, for the purpose of erecting a Masonic hall building in Vallejo, and that the names of the Trustees be P. D. Grimes, J. M. Rutan, Joseph L. Likins, Philip Hichborn, and Eben Hilton.

The capital stock of the association was \$8,000, divided into 320 shares of the par value of \$25. The number of trustees, as provided in the Articles of Incorporation, to direct the affairs of the association for three months, was five; and the names of those gentlemen were these above-named.

The annual meeting of stockholders was held on the second Wednesday evening in January, for their election.

At the regular meeting of the stockholders the representation of at least a majority of the stock issued was necessary for the transaction of business.

No shareholder could serve as a trustee unless he was a Master Mason in

good standing, and was a member of some lodge within thirty miles of Vallejo, and the holder of at least two shares of stock.

Dividends of the profits of the association were declared annually, at a regular meeting of the trustees. The By-Laws also provided that a dividend of the profits should not be declared to exceed 12 per cent. per annum on the capital stock issued. It was provided that all revenues exceeding 12 per cent. per annum be reserved as a sinking fund for the redemption of the capital stock, and that Naval Lodge No. 87 shall have all the benefit of this sinking fund for the purpose of redeeming the stock of the association.

Naval Lodge, No. 87, by the By-Laws, was to have the full control of the hall, ante-rooms, entrance-hall to the same, and all the upper part of the building, for the term of its existence, to occupy, lease, and rent the same, by paying to the association a monthly rent of twenty dollars, and a free lease of so much of lots seven and eight, at the corner of Virginia and Marin streets, as might be needed for the building and its uses. Three hundred and eighteen shares of the stock were issued and fully paid up, and the building was erected in the fall of 1866 by A. Powell, contractor, and A. H. Gunning, architect and superintendent. P. D. Grimes and Eben Hilton, at the election, were chosen president and treasurer, respectively; and A. P. Voorhees, secretary of the first Board.

At the annual meeting held January 23, 1867, P. D. Grimes, J. M. Rutan P. Hichborn, Eben. Hilton and A. Powell, *vice* J. L. Likins, were chosen Trustees. The new Board organized by electing the officers of the previous year, who were nominated to fill the same position year by year until 1871. In November, 1870, Mr. P. Hichborn, who was about to leave for the Eastern States, resigned, and at the regular annual meeting in the January following, Messrs. P. D. Grimes, A. Powell, A. P. Voorhees, N. G. Hilton and John M. Browne were elected Trustees, Messrs. Grimes, Voorhees and N. G. Hilton being President, Treasurer and Secretary. On January 17, 1872, the same Trustees were elected, save Dr. J. M. Browne, whose place was filled by Alexander Hichborn, the same officers serving as on the previous year. January 8, 1873, the same Board directed the affairs of the Association, excepting A. Hichborn, who was succeeded by J. M. Rutan, the same officers officiating. At the elections held on January 14, 1874, and 25, 1875, there was no change in the direction. On January 12, 1876, Mr. Powell gave place to Mr. Charles Daly, while on that of January 19, 1877, Dr. I. S. Halsey was elected in the place of Mr. Daly, no other change being made. An adjourned meeting was convened on February 11, 1878, when the following were elected Trustees: I. S. Halsey, George F. Mallett, J. M. Rutan, John Brownlie and George W. Simonton, Messrs. Rutan, Brownlie and Simonton being subsequently called upon to fill the respective positions of President, Treasurer and Secretary, while on January 14, 1879, no change was made save by filling Dr. Halsey's place on the Board by the return of C. T. B. Hallin.

*The Masonic and Odd Fellows Cemetery Association of the City of Vallejo.*—The preliminaries to the incorporation of the above Association were instituted in January, 1875, when Naval Lodge, No. 87, F. and A. M.; Solano Lodge, No. 229, F. and A. M.; San Pablo Lodge, No. 43, I. O. O. F., and Golden State Lodge, No. 216, I. O. O. F., appointed a Committee consisting of the following gentlemen, viz.: George F. Mallett, to represent Naval Lodge; Frank E. Brown, to represent Solano Lodge; Anson Clark, to represent Golden State Lodge, and Sylvester Warford, to represent San Pablo Lodge; authorizing them to select and enter into a contract for the purchase of a tract of land suitable for a cemetery for the exclusive use of Masons and Odd Fellows, to inter the remains of their brethren and their wives and children.

In pursuance with that authority, the Committee selected a tract of land owned by Ira Austin, containing about fifteen acres, and made their report to the various Lodges, who reappointed the same gentlemen to serve as a Committee, with power to add a fifth member whereby a Board of Trustees should be constituted, with power to enter into and incorporate the Masonic and Odd Fellows Cemetery Association of the City of Vallejo.

In accordance with instructions, the Committee met at the office of S. G. Hilborn, Esq., on February 20, 1875, and appointed Peter D. Grimes as Trustee, after which a Board was organized with the following officers: P. D. Grimes, President; Anson Clark, Treasurer; and George F. Mallett, Secretary. On February 23, 1875, the Articles of Incorporation were received from the Secretary of State, the text of which is given below, stating the object for which the Association is formed, and authorizing Messrs. Grimes, Clark, Warford, Brown and Mallett to serve as Trustees until their successors be elected and qualified.

#### ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE MASONIC AND ODD FELLOWS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY OF VALLEJO.

1. The name of the corporation is the Masonic and Odd Fellows Cemetery Association of the City of Vallejo.
2. The purpose for which it is formed is to purchase and hold a tract of land near the City of Vallejo, in Solano county, State of California, and to establish and maintain a cemetery thereon.
3. That its principal place of business is the City of Vallejo, Solano county, California.
4. That the term for which it is to exist is fifty years.
5. That the number of its Directors or Trustees be five.

The annual meeting for the election of Trustees and the transaction of general business is held on the last Tuesday in the month of March, and it is ordained that no person may be a Trustee unless he be a Mason or Odd



Fellow in good standing, or the owner of a lot. Each Lodge is entitled to a vote for the election of a Trustee, a like privilege being also held by the lot owners.

*St. Vincent's Benevolent Society.*—This Society is formed for the purpose of promoting each other's temporal and spiritual welfare; for affording spiritual consolation and substantial aid to its members in time of sickness, and securing to them, after death, decent and Christian interment, in accordance with the faith of the Holy Catholic Church; for the performance of works of mercy and charity towards distressed persons of the parish, and encouraging each other, by good example, in the duties of Christian life, and, above all, the exercising of a spirit of fraternal charity. The establishment of this most meritorious association was effected on February 3, 1867, having, for its first officers: John Louis Daniel, O. P., Chaplain; Michael S. Derwin, President; Daniel J. Brennan, Vice-President; John L. Daniel, O. P., Bursar; Michael J. Cunningham, Secretary; the members of the Council, being: James Doyle, Edward McGettigan, Lawrence Walsh, Hugh Cunningham, John Perryman, Daniel Wynn, James McGarvey, John Cronin and John Kennedy. The organizers of the St. Vincent's Benevolent Society, were: Lawrence Walsh, Ed. McGettigan, Hugh Cunningham, D. J. Brennan, Thomas Lynch, Patrick Crawley, Thos. Woods, Daniel Hayes, Jas. McGarvey, Edward O'Malley, Peter Lyden, John Leary, Benjamin Martin, Thos. Ryan, Peter Bourke, Robert Casey, Charles White, John Walsh, Henry Buckland, Anthony Murray, W. J. Cunningham, James Doyle, Thos. Gannon, Thos. Grannen, John Casey, Owen Behan, H. B. Hendrickson, John Crannin, John McManus, Thos. Hollern, Daniel Wynn, Thos. Kenney, Patrick O'Malley, John Mullin, John McGuire, Richard Walsh, John Kennedy, John Perryman, Nicholas Clavo, Richard Palmer, Edward Lynch, Bartholomew Turner, Patrick Kelly, Patrick Lynch, John Hurley, Joseph Sullivan, Patrick Murphy, Lawrence Barry, Patrick Crotty, Henry Knowles, John Brennan, Thos. Carroll, Patrick Delehunty, Chas. Cunningham, Angus McInnes, Denis Driscoll, Wm. Browier, Wm. Flynn, Michael Sullivan, James Toland, Patrick Tracy, John Wise, James Lane, C. Quinlan Henry McCullough, T. J. Baldwin, Daniel Donovan, Lawrence Dempsey. Honorary Members — Michael Derwin, Edward C. Doran, Lieut. F. Harrington, John Drennan, John O'Grady, Patrick Londregan, and Mrs. Lawrence Walsh.

It is gratifying to announce that this Society is in a most prosperous condition, financially, and otherwise. The office bearers for the present term, are: P. C. Lynch, President; M. L. Kelly, Vice-President; John Cunningham, Secretary; Council Members — Robert Couerdale, Patrick Tracy, Charles Barr, James Costello, Hugh Cunningham, Thomas Smith, James McGarvey, Nicholas Clavo, James Mitchell, Timothy Conners, Thomas Reed. The number of active members are 127; Life Members, 1, with 3 Honorary Members.



*Vallejo Post Office.*—This office comes under the second-class post offices of the United States, and carries with it a salary of \$2,100 per annum. It is also a money order office, transacting business in domestic, British, and Italian orders. It receives and despatches seven mails per day: Mails from San Francisco and Sacramento twice a day, and Eastern mails every evening. Issues about 2,500 money orders, amounting to about \$60,000 a year, and pays about \$6,000 in the same time. The first money order issued was dated May 20, 1867; while the date of the first one paid was the 27th of the same month. This post office registers on an average 1,100 letters in a twelve-month; receives about 800 letters daily and forwards nearly the same number; has 400 lock-boxes; while the total receipts for stamps, etc., is in the vicinity of \$5,000 yearly. The present officers in charge of this establishment are M. J. Wright, Postmaster, and W. F. Wright, Deputy, gentlemen of much merit and extreme courtesy. Appended is a list of appointments, obtained from the Post Office Department at Washington, since the establishment of the office at Vallejo: Eleazer Frisbie, January 19, 1855; Wm. W. Chapman, March 3, 1857; Joseph S. McIntyre, May 28, 1860; Edson J. Wilson, June 28, 1861; Edwin H. Sawyer, January 27, 1864; George P. Wescott, June 17, 1864; Edson J. Wilson, December 27, 1865; James E. Ryan, June 5, 1868; Miss Mary J. Falls, April 16, 1869; Edson J. Wilson, October 23, 1869; Martin J. Wright, December 10, 1873, reappointed January 25, 1878.

**HOMESTEAD ASSOCIATIONS.**—Of all the important features necessary to be observed in the progress of a rapidly-rising city, the organization of homestead associations is one which bears a satisfactory impress, for these, by consolidated capital and united effort, place it within the reach of every industrious person to obtain a tract of land that he can call his own, whereon he may erect that typical castle which is usually held to be sacred against the aggressions of the outside world. By a payment of a small sum into the capital stock, and the disbursement of a trifling amount in stated assessments, one and all may, through this channel, which is within the grasp of each and every one, become, in a short time, the possessor of a site for a homestead free from encumbrances of any kind. To the proprietors or shareholders, associations of this nature have always been of benefit; while the advance of real estate, secured in this manner, has been marked and rapid, the investments in nearly all instances having proved safe and profitable.

*The Vallejo Homestead Association* was incorporated on April 25, 1867, under the direct auspices of the following gentlemen: Elisha Whiting, George W. Simonton, J. F. Smith, William C. Root, H. B. Bell, M. L. Tornbohm, and Sanford C. Baker; Mr. Whiting being elected President, and Mr. Simonton Secretary and Treasurer.

The capital stock of the Association was \$27,000, and was to continue in existence for the term of three years, from and after the date and the filing of the certificate, as above stated.

Each member taking a share of stock paid into the treasury two dollars on each share taken, as a fund for defraying the current expenses of the Association, and five dollars per month, in advance, on each share, to be known as the "Homestead Fund," to be used in the purchase of land and improvements thereon.

At the regular monthly meeting, held July 13, 1867, an election of officers was held, resulting in the returning of E. Whiting, President; G. W. Simon-ton, Secretary and Treasurer, and five Directors, viz: J. F. Smith, H. K. Snow, M. L. Tornbohm, H. B. Bell, and W. W. Skinner, who held office until the annual meeting of the stockholders, which was held on the first Monday in May of each year.

The By-Laws provided for a standing committee of three members of the Board of Directors, to attend to all matters relative to investment in real estate, title, price, terms of sale, etc., and the President appointed J. F. Smith, E. Whiting, and M. L. Tornbohm.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees, convened on June 24, 1867, it was ordered that the report of the committee on the purchase of land be adopted, viz: "That we purchase of General J. B. Frisbie five full blocks of land situate in the town of Vallejo, and numbered on map of said town, blocks 392, 394, 395, 398, and 399, containing eighty lots 50x130 feet, at a cost of \$8,000.

Thirty lots in blocks 396, 397, and 400 were bought on October 12, 1877, at the same rate as first purchase, viz: \$3,000, making in all one hundred and ten lots.

On November 9, 1867, the land was distributed among the shareholders by drawing for choice of lots, with the understanding, which was voted in public meeting, that, as the Association had been at the expense of fencing in the property, those drawing corner lots should defray the extra cost of inclosing the same, to the extent of ten dollars.

The lots, when fully paid up, including the outlay of fencing, recording deed, and other incidental expenses, cost the holders \$122 25 for corner lots, and for those on the inside \$112 25.

Many of the owners, in the fall of 1867 and the following season, built houses and made other improvements, so that in three or four years nearly every lot had its comfortable home, and to-day the property is one of the prettiest in the city of Vallejo.

*Vallejo Land and Improvement Company.*—This company was incorporated on the 27th day of October, 1871, with a capital stock divided into 40,000 shares, of \$100 each, the whole capital being \$4,000,000. The ob-

jects of the corporation were to purchase, and sell, and convey lands in the county of Solano; to erect and maintain wharves and docks on the same for the purposes of manufactures, trades, business and commerce; to reclaim lands, purchase and otherwise improve the same by buildings, fixtures and erections, to be placed thereon for warehousing and other purposes; to lay out public streets, avenues, boulevards, squares and pleasure-grounds across, over and upon the land purchased, and dedicate the same to the public use. It was then declared that the time of existence of said company should be fifty years, and the following trustees were elected to manage the affairs of the company, viz.: John B. Frisbie; Faxton D. Atherton; Leland Stanford; Milton S. Latham; Alexander De Laski, and E. H. Green; the officers being: President, John B. Frisbie; Vice President, F. D. Atherton; Secretary, J. K. Duncan; Treasurer, Milton S. Latham.

The first annual report of the company puts forth the state of the association as being most flourishing. When submitted, on January 17, 1872, their property consisted chiefly of 2,000 acres of land in and near the town of Vallejo, the value of which was estimated at nearly \$3,000,000. One thousand acres were situated within the town limits, including much in the best localities, and six hundred acres along the water-front. The portion lying inside the town limits was laid out in lots, while the balance was suburban lands, and other tracts of considerable value. At this time the prospects of Vallejo had reached its zenith, and the relapse which has since occurred was not then deemed probable.

Throughout the following years the Vallejo Land and Improvement Company has been on the wane, monetarily speaking. Owing to the declension of trade, and other losses, the association is not in as flourishing a condition as might be expected, yet there is every prospect of its recovering the ground lost. Its property is unquestionably valuable. It owns large warehouses in most desirable localities, which cannot but prove advantageous in the near future.

The Board of Trustees for the year 1878 are: Hon. S. G. Hilborn, Vallejo; Messrs. E. J. Wilson, A. T. Robinson, Vallejo; Hon. C. Hartson, Napa; and Messrs Edmund R. White, and J. K. Duncan, of San Francisco and Vallejo; while the officers are: President, Hon. S. G. Hilborn; Vice President, E. J. Wilson; Treasurer, Hon. C. Hartson, and Secretary, J. K. Duncan.

*Vallejo City Water Company.*—Was incorporated in 1870. The present directorship is: Messrs. A. Chabôt, of Oakland, President; Louis Pierce, and J. C. Edgecumbe, Superintendents; J. E. Abbott, Secretary, and A. J. McPike, Cashier, Book-keeper, and acting Superintendent.

The main reservoir of the company is situated near the Napa road, three miles north of the city, being constructed on a portion of 425 acres purchased by the company at a sum of \$42,000. The dam covers an extent of



160 acres; it is three hundred feet wide, by forty feet high, with 150 feet at the base, and 100 feet at the apex. Its capacity is said to be 8 or 900,000,000 gallons. From this immense receptacle the fluid is conducted to the city through twelve-inch cast-iron pipes, and thence distributed by branch pipes aggregating more than sixteen miles in length. The town is watered by two systems of piping, as follows: On the top of Capitol Hill there is a reservoir which is filled by means of pumping, and thereafter distributed by lesser pipes to those high positions which the water from the main reservoir will not reach. The pump in use is a No. 8 Hooker, driven by a sixty-horse-power engine, and has a pumping capacity of about 500,000 gallons in the twenty-four hours. Where the pump is located there is yet another reservoir which has a capacity of 200,000 gallons, and is used to feed the dam on the summit of the hill, when there is not sufficient pressure from the main reservoir. The company also supplies the Mare Island Navy Yard with 1,000,000 gallons per mensem, transmitted by means of a sub-marine cast-iron pipe with flexible joints, a distance of two thousand feet, across the bed of the Napa River. This water is used for irrigating purposes, as well as through the buildings and machine-shops, and without doubt its acquisition has been a great saving to the government. Besides this vast supply, the company provides the railway establishments, the flour-mills, and the steamers which ply to San Francisco, with water. From thirty to sixty ships per annum, after loading with grain, fill their tanks from the company's pipes ere sailing for foreign lands, while the home consumption amounts to fully three-fourths of the population.

The elevation of the main dam is eighty feet above the level of the sea; that on the hill is one hundred and fifty feet. In conclusion, there is an admirable system, whereby, in case of fire, connection is made between the Capitol Hill dam and the main pipes, which gives a pressure of 150 feet; besides, in this regard, thirty five hydrants, of the very latest patterns, have been placed at the most convenient street-corners.

*Vallejo Gas Light Company*—Incorporated July 23, 1867, with a capital of \$40,000, under the Directorship of J. B. Frisbie, President, and Harvey W. Snow, Secretary. The Company erected their first buildings on Main street, near the water front, by contract, for the whole of the original capital of \$40,000, but these have given place to more spacious offices on Maryland, between Marin and Sonoma streets. In November, 1871, the capital stock of the Company was increased to \$250,000, when a new Retort House was built to contain fifteen retorts capable of yielding 60,000 cubic feet of gas per day. The consumption, however, is about 10,000 feet daily. Gas is distributed through the city in main pipes aggregating about five miles in length, which was first brought into requisition to light the town towards the end of 1867. The present officers are J. K. Duncan, President; Hon. S. G. Hilborn, Secretary; and P. B. Fegan, Superintendent, who has held the position since the first organization of the Company.





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*Bank of Vallejo*—Was incorporated on September 25, 1876, with an authorized capital of \$150,000, under the management of D. W. Harrier as President, and J. E. Abbott, Cashier, with Eben Hilton, Joseph Wilson, Thomas Matthews, J. C. Edgecumbe, W. C. Greaves, N. Vanderlip, D. W. Harrier, John Brownlie, Charles Widemann, as Directors. The present management is as follows: W. C. Greaves, President; S. C. Farnham, Vice-President; J. E. Abbott, Secretary and Cashier; F. D. Mead, Assistant Cashier, the Board of Directors being W. C. Greaves, S. C. Farnham, J. E. Abbott, John Wilson, Joseph Wilson, Charles Widemann, G. B. Richart, C. Hallin and O. C. Chamberlain.

The Bank of Vallejo transacts its business in the Bernard Block, situated on Georgia street, where it carries on a general banking and exchange business. Draws on National Gold Bank and Trust Company of San Francisco.

*The Vallejo Savings and Commercial Bank*.—This Bank was incorporated on May 3, 1870, with an authorized capital of \$300,000, under the management of J. B. Frisbie, President, and Henry Mackie, Cashier, the Directors being J. B. Frisbie, H. Mackie, J. F. Tobin, Capt. C. H. Baldwin, U. S. N., L. C. Fowler, D. C. Haskin and Edward McGettigan. The present management is under E. J. Wilson, President, with J. R. English, Cashier, the Board of Directors being E. J. Wilson, C. Hartson, A. T. Robinson, M. Fletcher, P. W. Dillon, J. K. Duncan and S. G. Hilborn.

The building in which the Bank transacts its business is an imposing structure, standing on the northwest corner of Georgia and Sacramento streets, where it does a general banking and exchange business. Corresponds with Wells, Fargo & Co., of New York and San Francisco.

*Pioneer Brewery, Messrs. Smith, Lessees*—Is situated on the northeast corner of Marin and Carolina streets, and was established in 1862 under the name of the Vallejo Brewery, by Edward McGettigan, his partners being A. Murray and J. McGarvey. Under the exigencies of trade the building was brought to the hammer in 1865, when it was bought by Mr. McGettigan who rebuilt and put new machinery into it and changed its appellation to the Pioneer Brewery, which it now bears. As a brewing establishment it ranks second to none in the State.

The main building occupies an area of 60x80 feet, and is one story high, with a basement, in the latter of which is the Malt floor and fermenting tubs, the up-stairs being devoted to the malt kiln, malt mill, hop and sample-rooms, while there is in use a patent refrigerator, one of three on the coast. In connection with the brewery there are the usual out-houses of stables, sheds, and other buildings, all of which are in excellent condition. The beer made by the establishment is a strong and healthful beverage, for which a large sale is found in Napa, Calistoga and the other interior towns, while the home consumption is quite an item, the demand being always on the increase.

*Empire Soda Works.*—O'Grady & Co., proprietors, is a two-storied frame building, standing on the corner of Sonoma and Florida streets, covering an area of 30x40 feet. The first floor is divided into two parts, one being occupied as a saloon, run in connection with the business; while, in the other, stands a soda machine, by Smith, of San Francisco, with a capacity of twenty-five gallons, and capable of manufacturing five hundred bottles of soda water per diem. The reservoir connects with a patent bottling and corking machine, made by John Matthews, of New York. There is also a patent bottle-washer on the premises. The former machine is the only one in the district, a royalty of \$75 per month being paid on it; while a charge of about \$398 had to be met before the use of it was permitted in the county. In the winter months the consumption of soda is necessarily smaller than in summer; but seventy-five dozen per diem may be taken as the average out-turn. All kinds of effervescing liquors, such as cider, porter, gingerale, and lemonade, are bottled on the works; while they have a good business both in town and country, with every prospect of its extension to the adjacent counties. The present premises have only been occupied since 1866, the original works having been erected fourteen years ago, by E. McGettigan, on the corner of Sonoma and Carolina streets, who has now sold out of the business.

*The Vallejo Foundry and Machine Works* — Is the first establishment of its kind started in Vallejo. It stands, according to the new survey, at the south-east corner of Block No. 791. This building is situated in South Vallejo, and was erected in August, 1869, by the enterprising firm of Heald & McCormick. In 1874, however, the former gentleman purchased the interest of the latter, since when, the business has been carried on by Mr. Heald alone. It is a source of gratification to remark that since the first establishment of the undertaking, it has generally increased in importance, the work turned out being first-class. A specialty is made of Straw Burning Threshing Machines; while nearly all the rolling stock of the California Pacific Railroad is manufactured on the premises. Every class of machinery can be designed and moulded there; the proprietor taking a just pride in securing all the latest improvements in each department of his business. The works employ continuously, a staff of twenty workmen; the capital invested is about \$20,000; while a general business is done to the extent of \$75,000 per annum. The machinery employed on the premises is of first-class workmanship, and is driven by an engine of 26 horse-power.

*Pioneer Sash, Doors and Blind Factory* — Situated on Block No. 752, at the corner of Rice and Fifth streets, South Vallejo, was established by the present proprietors, Messrs. D. G. Barnes & Co., in the year 1869, on the premises which they now occupy. This is the only branch of the industry



in the city, to which it does much credit. The building is of wood. The capital employed is entirely invested by the proprietors, who employ ten men on the premises. They turn out all kinds of mouldings, and house furnishings, as well as making, for the grape-growing districts of Napa and Sonoma, a large number of wine and water tanks. The machinery is worked by a steam engine, made by William Reardon & Co., of Brooklyn, N. Y. This factory is the first of its kind erected in Vallejo; and from the position which it holds, and the easy access it has to communication, both by steamer and rail, in a country which is daily increasing in population, the efforts of the proprietors are being rewarded by a thriving and increasing business.

*Solano Brewery*—Is located on the corner of Kentucky street, on north half of lots 1 and 2, block 264. It was erected in the year 1870 and is built of brick, the area covered being 42x88 feet. On the ground floor is the Sample Room 40x24, with the beer cellar immediately under it of the same demensions; adjoining the former is the brewing room 40x24 containing the furnace and malt tub. On the second story there is a brewing tub capable of holding sixteen barrels, besides which there is a separate store room built of brick 42x36. The entire premises were constructed by Messrs. Widemann & Rothenbusch, the present proprietors, at a cost of about \$24,000. This is the largest brewery in Vallejo and has its principal custom within the city limits.

*Pioneer Marble Works*.—James Doyle, proprietor of the above works occupies a one story wooden structure measuring 100x25 feet with a yard attached. He employs two men who dress the rough stone into monuments, mantel-pieces and other work of a like nature. The marble used is imported in its natural state from San Francisco while the granite is brought from the Penryn quarries, Placer county, in this State. Mr. Doyle no longer works at this branch of industry; he is Constable for the city of Vallejo. The business was first started in 1862.

*Farragut Hall*.—This commodious hall was built by the late Admiral D. G. Farragut in the year 1869 on Georgia street. Its dimensions are 50x80 feet; in the northern or upper end of which there is a stage fitted with all appropriate paraphernalia for theatrical representations, besides five dressing rooms. The original size of the building was too small, so 30 feet were added to it making one of the largest rooms in the county. It is lit by a sun burner gas jet in the center while brackets are placed at intervals along the walls. It is well ventilated and built of brick. All public meetings, social and political are usually held here, it having a seating capacity of eight hundred.

*The Alert Boat Club* was organized July 16, 1872, by A. J. Brownlie, W. S. Risley, Osgood Hilton, Wm. McDonald and A. J. McKnight.

It immediately began operations by electing new members and building their first boat, which was done by the members themselves in the old United States Hotel. The first race rowed was between crews from the Riversides of Sacramento, and the first crew of the Alerts on January 1, 1873, the Riversides entering R. C. Lowell, W. Barry, W. A. Butterfield and H. Thiel; the Alerts, Jno. Reed, W. S. Risley, James Kane and Wm. McDonald. This race was for a set of racing oars, and was won by the Riversides by ten boat lengths.

The next race occurred the same day between crews of Farragut Boat Club of South Vallejo, and the junior crew of the Alert. The Farragut seating Jas. A. Lamont, A. S. Carman, M. Dozier, Jno. T. Dare, and Alerts, A. J. Brownlie, A. J. McKnight, H. E. Brown and Geo. Gorham. This race was for a set of boat-house colors, and was won easily by the Alerts, beating their opponents one-quarter of a mile. Shortly after this the Alerts sent east for a four-oared paper shell, which arrived in due time and was the only four-oared paper boat on the Coast. With this boat they entered the grand regatta held in Vallejo July 4, 1873.

The first race that day was for the second class four-oared boats. The Alerts and Pioneers entering. The distance was one and a half miles and return, making three miles, which distance was rowed by the Alerts in 22-8, beating the Pioneers badly. Next race for first class single scullers. Wm. Daily of the Alerts being entered against two others of San Francisco. This was won by Daily by half a length, it being the best race of the day. Third race for second class single scullers. W. S. Risley and Austin Stevenson of the Alerts being matched against three other boats from other clubs. The honor of this race also was the Alerts, for Risley won easily, Stevenson also of the Alerts, second. The grand race of the day was for four-oared boats, there being in all seven entries. The Alerts entering J. J. Smith, G. E. Taylor, W. S. Risley and Wm. Daily. The Riversides won this race, nearly all the other boats having been swamped in the rough water. The Farraguts of South Vallejo coming in second. Shortly after this a set of champion colors for Vallejo waters was purchased jointly by the Farragut and Alert clubs of Vallejo, and the first race was rowed for these on January 1, 1874. The Farragut boys winning by two seconds or half a boat's length in 21-29½.

On June 6, 1874, another race for the colors was rowed by the same clubs. This being won by the Alerts in 21.20, beating the other boat 175 yards.

Nothing more in the rowing line was done until October, 1878, when the Alert Club was represented by A. J. McKnight, Chas. B. Bond, Richard McKnight and A. J. Brownlie at Oakland in the race for the McKinley

Challenge Cup. Here the Alerts were unfortunate, having made a poor start, a worse turn, and breaking a seat on their road home. They came in third however, making good time.

Thanksgiving day at Vallejo was the scene of another boating contest between the junior crews of the Farragut and Alert Clubs. The Farragut's boat being rowed by Jno. T. Dare, H. D. Lazelle, Chas. Morse and Henry Gedge, and the Alerts by Geo. B. Hanna, Geo. Roe, Lyle Roe and Osgood Hilton. The race was rowed for the honors, and resulted in a complete victory for the Alert boys, they having distanced their competitors and winning in 20-30 $\frac{3}{4}$ , the best three mile time ever made on this Coast.

The Alert Club membership is composed of some of the finest young men in the place; in numbers, 28. The Club owns their boat-house which is situated on Georgia street wharf, one four-oared wood shell, one four-oared paper shell, one racing barge, lately built, and launched February 21, 1879. She is a beauty and pronounced (by those who are good judges) likely to be very speedy. There is also in the boat-house two Rob Roy Canoes of McGregor model and fame. Value of Club property, \$1,300.

Present officers: Frank B. Lemon, President; Frank T. Winchell, Vice-President; A. J. McKnight, Secretary; Wm. McDonald, Treasurer; Geo. Gorham, Captain.

This Club was not organized for gain financially, but to promote good feeling among its members, encourage boating, and benefit all by the physical exertion necessary in rowing. They do not row for money, but for the honors of the occasion.

The Club appears to be in a flourishing condition and is rapidly increasing in numerical strength, while it is growing in the esteem of the people.

**HOTELS.**—There is no city on the Pacific Coast which is so well provided with accommodation for the traveler as is Vallejo, indeed some of these structures are a feature of the town, while the principal hotel would do credit to a place of double the pretensions. The first hotels, already mentioned in this work, have long ceased to enfold the weary traveler in their hospitable arms. Some of the original buildings still stand, as it were to mark the course of time, while others have been pulled down to make way for more eligible structures, or been utterly wiped out by the devouring flames which have on occasion visited the city.

*Barnard House*.—Chief among the present hotels is this elegant building occupying an area of 150x130 feet, on Georgia, the principal business street in Vallejo. It was completed and opened on August 10, 1872, by John M. Staples, the present proprietor of the Arcade House in San Francisco. The Barnard House is a large, square building, containing forty-five bed rooms, a large dining room up stairs, and a restaurant on the ground



floor. It is fitted with every modern improvement, necessary for the comfort of visitors, and has two entrances, one on Georgia, the other on Sacramento street. The street car passes it on its way to the railroad depot twice a day, and the rate for board and lodging varies from two to three dollars per diem. The present proprietor is Adrian H. Izirar, who is a most popular landlord.

*The Howard House*, situated on 116 and 118 Georgia street, was commenced in September and finished in December, 1876. Has a frontage of 50 feet, and can accommodate 150 guests with comfort. It derives its name from Amos Howard, its first proprietor, who died a few months after its completion, the business being now carried on by his widow and her present husband, R. J. Harrington.

In addition to these there are the Sherman House, Washington House, and others, which all find ample patronage from the employes on the Navy Yard.

NEWSPAPERS.—*The Vallejo Chronicle* was founded by F. A. Leach and William Gregg, the first issue being printed June 20, 1867. It appeared as a weekly edition of modest size and pretensions, and was continued as a weekly until November, 1868, when the present daily was established. In April, 1869, Mr. Leach bought the interest of his associate and became sole proprietor of the establishment. On assuming the full control he began the issue of the Weekly Chronicle, which had been suspended by the daily. The politics of the paper, which owing to the conflicting principles of the two proprietors had before been independent, were changed, and it became independent Republican, and has ever since steadily advocated the views of that party. In November, 1875, the ownership of the establishment was merged into a stock company, incorporated under the State laws; Mr. Leach, however, still retaining all but a fraction of the stock and continuing in the absolute management and control of the business. March 1st, 1879, feeble and still failing health compelled him to dissolve his connection with the journal, and he sold his whole interest therein to Thomas Wendell, a part proprietor and the editor of the Chronicle for several years preceding. Mr. Wendell, on entering into charge, united in himself the duties of business manager with those of editor. The Chronicle has been a prosperous journal from the date of its establishment and has increased in stability and reputation with its growing years. The circulation of its daily edition is found chiefly in Vallejo and places along the line of the two branches of the California and Pacific Railroad; the weekly edition is found through every part of the interior of Solano, and in Napa and Lake, besides having a very considerable circulation among the vessels of the Pacific squadron of the Navy, where its navy intelligence makes it an interesting journal.

*The "Solano Daily Times"* made its first appearance on the morn-



ing of September 28th, 1875, in its present form, 12x18, twenty columns. It rose from the columns of the *Daily Independent*. The type, presses, etc., of the *Independent* had been purchased by George Roe, who, forming a partnership with A. B. Gibson, commenced the publication of the *Times*. About a month after this A. B. Gibson withdrew from the paper, and George Roe formed a company, which was known as the "*Times Publishing Company*," and which was composed, besides himself, of W. V. Walsh, H. J. Pelham, and Thad. McFarland. McFarland and Pelham hereafter seceded from the *Times*, which now was issued under the firm name of Roe & Walsh.

In January, 1876, the *Solano Weekly Times* made its appearance in connection with the daily. It is made up of all the reading matter that appears in the daily during each week, and its columns are, consequently, well filled. The *Solano Weekly Times* is 23x32 in size, of twenty-eight columns, and has a fair circulation in Solano and adjacent counties.

*The Vallejo Elevator.*—In the year 1867 Mr. G. C. Pearson, a gentleman of Chicago, came to the coast for the benefit of his health, and among other places visited Vallejo, where he conceived the plan of erecting an elevator after the manner of those in use in other grain producing States. Among those to whom he imparted his idea was Dr. D. W. C. Rice, the president of the California Pacific Railroad, who was so struck with the practicability of such a scheme that he became anxious to share in the building and participate in its advantages, suggesting that a joint-stock company should be formed, which was done without delay, it being floated with a capital of \$500,000. On investigating the laws of the State, Mr. Pearson found that there was none regulating the storage of warehouses whereby property could be transferred upon endorsement. He therefore drafted a bill, with the idea of regulating such, but it was, unfortunately, never passed by the Legislature, although in each successive session presented to the Assembly. Mr. Pearson thereupon seceded from any participation in the scheme, and returned to Chicago, leaving the plans and specifications in the hands of Dr. Rice. A company was organized, composed of Dr. Rice, with Dr. Ryder, Messrs. Roelofson, D. C. Haskins, J. B. Frisbie, Dr. Spencer, and Messrs. Hudson and Bauchius, of Marysville, who were afterwards joined by I. Friedlander, he having obtained a controlling interest by the purchase of one-fifth of the stock. On his return to Chicago, Mr. Pearson had, notwithstanding his connection with the elevator had ceased, engaged, at the request of Dr. Rice, the services of Mr. Robert Mackie as architect and overseer of the construction; and through the influence of Dr. Ryder, Mr. Charles Wheeler, of Oswego, New York, was appointed superintendent. These gentlemen arrived in the summer of 1868, but headway was not made with the building till the following year. The piling was effected in November and December of 1868, and the erection commenced on January 4, 1869.

As far back as 1838 the practicability of shipping grain in bulk was demonstrated when cargoes of wheat were shipped from Germany and other countries to the United States, which arrived in better condition than did that in sacks or boxes. There was therefore no reason why such should not be equally practicable in 1869.

"Experience had shown," says Mr. Pearson, "the impossibility of storing large amounts of grain in the old style warehouse, built with heavy timber frames, the toughest oak being inadequate for sustaining the pressure of even the small amount that it was possible to store in the shallow, flat bins of the period. Various materials were tested without success, until the plan was hit upon of using wooden strips, 2x6 to 3x12, resting flatwise, one upon another, and thoroughly spiked together; any mechanic will understand the impossibility of breaking down or rending asunder a building composed of compartments or bins interlocked or dovetailed together in this manner; the whole fabric is one piece, possessing relatively more strength. The Elevator building is simply an aggregation of bins resting upon pieces of wood stone-bound together with iron bands and rods; surmounting the bins is a light frame, serving to carry the roof and for operating the machinery directly connected with elevating, spouting and weighing grain. Into these bins (which are numbered in all the larger elevators) the grain is bulked, *i. e.*, stored loosely, which not only protects it from destruction by rats and mice, but allows the formation of grades of uniform character, whereby the value is recognized in the market at once by reference to samples. An elevator's capacity consequently depends upon the number and size of its bins. In this respect they vary from one to five hundred, with storage room for 300 tons for the smaller, to 48,000 tons for the larger."

"The Vallejo elevator stands on over 900 piles, of an average length of forty feet, driven through about eight feet of mud and detritus, and into the rocky bottom from four to six feet, forming a secure foundation against settling. To secure it against the danger of careening over from earthquake vibrations, Mr. Mackie had heavy timbers, well spliced together, placed all around the outside piling, and these were firmly tied to the pier clumps or clusters on the inside of the building with heavy iron rods, which are carried below high-water mark, or about eleven feet below the top of the piles. A portion of the area was then filled with rock and earth, from eight to ten feet in depth, adjacent to the inside piles, and then raised in a mound form to the centre, where the depth is thirty feet.

It will thus be seen on what a massive foundation this elevator was built. It is never known when an earthquake may be experienced on the coast. Former years have proved what devastation may be caused by one of them, and it is never safe to erect a bulky building of this nature on any but the soundest foundation.

“The construction of the building is most massive. The first and second stories of the elevator are frame work of 12x12-inch—interspersed with 10x10 timber—Puget Sound timber. The number of posts worked in is 260, which are capped by 12x18-inch timbers, running crosswise the building, a width of 85 feet. These joists are crossed by 12x16-inch timbers, in four tiers, running at right angles the whole length of the building, a distance of one hundred feet, and firmly attached to the underlying timbers. Upon this structure commences the third story, or grain bins, which are built up crib fashion, of an oblong form, 10x20 feet, hopped at the bottom, in which there is a casting with a slide for drawing out the contents when required for shipping. The bins, of which there are thirty-nine, are constructed of 2x6 plank, spiked on each other flatwise to a height of forty feet. Above these is the cupola, forty-two feet in width, with a depth of one hundred feet, running longitudinally through the building, and rising a height of forty feet to the eaves, from the level to the top of the bins. This structure is three stories high, with an attic, in which is the principal portion of the elevating machinery. This is driven by a belt, weighing over 1,400 pounds, from a pulley in the engine shaft below. The third story of the cupola is designed for receiving and weighing grain from the cars. The two lower stories are adapted for distributing the grain through wooden spouts, or shutes, to the different bins. The scales for weighing the grain in bulk are of Fairbanks’ patent, and the three have each respectively a capacity of fifteen tons at a draft, and their hoppers will hold five hundred bushels. There are three receiving elevators—or, as they are termed in the Western States, car elevators—and two elevators for shipping. The latter are provided, each, with a pair of 250-bushel hopper scales. There is one elevator, or “leg,” on the south side, which is built into the building in a frame, which is so arranged as to be capable of being lowered or raised into barges or schooners for discharging grain. When not in use the foot rests on the wharf, but when employed in unloading, the foot is carried into the vessel to be discharged, sunk into the loose grain, a slide opened, and the cargo very rapidly elevated by buckets, or cups, attached to an endless belt. These cups will contain about one-twelfth of a bushel, and three hundred and eighty of them pass up in a minute of time; equal to an aggregate lifting capacity of from 1,500 to 1,800 bushels per hour. The grain is received in a garner and weighed out in 100-bushel drafts, which are received in the foot of the distributing elevator and carried thence to the attic, to be distributed to the respective bins, according to the grade of the grain. The method is different in receiving grain from the cars, which are run on tracks into the lower story, opposite the elevators. The grain is rapidly thrown out by steam shovels into a hopper, or sink, from which it runs into the elevating buckets, and thence emptied into the scale of hoppers for weighing, and then distributed into the proper bins. In discharging



from the bins, the grain is drawn into the foot of the shipping elevators; thence carried to the top of the building and weighed in four hopper scales—one of 500, two of 300, and one of 250 bushels—and afterwards discharged through spouts into the ship to be loaded. The whole mechanism and methods of receiving and discharging are very simple and expeditious in operation. The storage capacity of the building will approximate 350,000 bushels, or 10,000 tons of wheat, inclusive of store room for 250 tons of sacked grain. The handling capacity is 35,000 bushels per day, though it can be weighed and run into a ship's hold at a speed of from 8,000 to 10,000 bushels; equal to 250 to 300 tons per hour. The engine and boilers are located in a separate fire-proof building, 30x35 feet in dimensions, from which rises a smoke-stack, three feet in diameter, to a height of 118 feet. The cylinder of the engine is 18 inches bore and 42 inches stroke. The engine was built at the Union Iron Works, San Francisco. For regulating the running speed, there is attached to the engine one of Scott & Eckart's patent adjustable cut-offs and governor. The steam is supplied by two boilers, 56 inches in diameter and 16 feet in length, containing thirty-five 3-inch tubes each; also manufactured by Booth & Co., which firm manufactured the shafting, pulleys, etc. There are 200 feet of shafting, ranging from 6 inches down to 2¼ inches in diameter. Of belting, there are 3,150 feet. The main driving belt is 226 feet long and 20 inches in width, and runs from a 6-foot pulley on the engine to a 10-foot pulley on the main line of shafting in the top of the building. There are 3,150 feet of belting in service, viz: 226 feet, five-ply, 20 inches wide; 1,200 feet, four-ply, 20 inches wide; 132 feet, four-ply, 18 inches wide; 127 feet, four-ply, 16 inches wide, and 258 feet, four-ply, 8 inches wide. The aggregate total of lineal feet of timber and lumber, used and employed in erecting the elevator, figures up 1,076,000 feet, exclusive of 35,000 lineal feet of piles, used in constructing the building. The roof is of tin, put on by W. H. Lamb & Co., who also supplied the elevator buckets, hardware, nails, screws, etc. The outside of the building is covered with smooth iron."

The above technical information has been in the main taken from the Vallejo directory of 1870, but, as many of the figures therein given were incorrect, the present ones quoted were supplied by Mr. Luke Alvord, who was foreman on the building during its erection.

On the afternoon of the 16th of September, 1872, the Vallejo elevator was no more; it fell with a terrific crash, carrying with it some 4,000 tons of wheat which were stored inside, and 1,000 more upon the wharves around the building, all being the property of I. Friedlander, the Grain King. The total loss was estimated at \$100,000. The cause of collapse is by some asserted to be on account of defective piling, while others declare that the catastrophe was the result of the two lower stories not being properly braced, *i. e.* up to a distance of 25 feet from the base of the building. For



several days prior to its collapse, the elevator had evinced decided symptoms of settling. Doors had become cramped, crackling sounds had been heard all over the building, but this gave no cause for alarm; yet down it went in one confused heap, happily taking with it no human lives.

*Carquinez Cemetery.*—This beautiful plot of ground, like many others for a public purpose, was donated to the City of Vallejo by General John B. Frisbie in 1857, and contains twenty-five acres. It is situated on the summit of the rising ground, and is on the direct road to Benicia. A road running through the center divides the grounds equally and is apportioned, the eastern half to the Catholic and the western half to the Protestant. The government of the burial-ground is vested in Trustees and a Superintendent.

*Military Organization.*—Vallejo boasts one company of Rifles, composed of a fine body of men who are in every way capable as citizen soldiers. The time was when there mustered in its ranks many men who had served in the war of the rebellion. These have in a measure given way to not less worthy successors, who have brought the standard of their corps to a high state of perfection. Captain Frank O'Grady may well feel pleasure in his command, and California be proud of this portion of her National Guard.

*VALLEJO FIRE DEPARTMENT.*—Among the many institutions in the United States in which her sons may truly feel a just pride, none are more prominently brought forward than are her fire companies. Every city or town, however small, boasts of its brigade, who, whether paid or from love, give their energies at the first stroke of the fire alarm to save life and property. The Fire Department in Vallejo was established in the year 1865, the inaugural election having been held on December 4th of that year. At this meeting, and for the following years the officers elected were: Chief Engineer, William Aspenall; January 10, 1868, Chief Engineer, Philip Hichborn; January 10, 1870, Philip Hichborn was elected Chief Engineer; January 12, 1872, Alexander Hichborn was chosen Chief and John L. King, First Assistant Engineer; May 4, 1873, Joseph Edgecumbe, Chief, Van B. Smith, First, and John Welch, Second Assistant Engineers; May 9, 1874, O. L. Henderson, Chief, Gilbert Clayton, First, and B. D. Egery, Second Assistant Engineers; May 7, 1875, Van B. Smith, Chief, Thomas McDonald, First, and George Gorham, Second Assistant Engineers; May 16, 1876, William McGill, Chief, E. J. Colby, First, and J. F. Nugent, Second Assistant Engineers; May 3, 1877, Van B. Smith, Chief, J. J. Smith, First, and R. W. Burton, Second Assistant Engineer; May 20, 1878, William Beardsley, Chief, Daniel Skully, First, and Steven Price, Second Assistant Engineers; May 2, 1879, Steven M. Price, Chief, Daniel Skully, First, and Peter Wright, Second Assistant Engineers.

*San Pablo Engine Company, No. 1.*—This company was organized on February 23, 1865, under the following officers, who were elected at the first meeting, held on the above mentioned date: Foreman, John King; First Assistant, H. P. Soames; Second Assistant, Edward Fitzmorris; Treasurer, F. S. Carlton; Secretary, Laurence Ryan; Financial Secretary, John Kennedy. The location of the Engine is at the Masonic Hall, on Virginia street. It is of the fourth class and weighs, exclusive of supplies, 3,700 pounds. The boiler is M. R. Clapp's Circulating Tubular Patent, made of the best material and of sufficient strength to bear twice the pressure usually required. Steam can be engendered from cold water in from four to six minutes from the time of the lighting of the fires. The boiler is covered with German silver, and banded with the same substance and Princess metal. The cylinder is fitted to a bed-plate which contains all the steam passages, thus preventing leaky joints and condensation of steam. It is fitted with self-adjusting packing, requiring little or no attention from the Engineer. The steam cylinder, steam chest and bed-plate are cased in German silver and Princess metal. The main forcing-pump is double-acting, and made of a composition of copper and tin and highly polished. It is so constructed that it can be taken apart or put together in a few minutes if required; there is also a circulating valve for the purpose of feeding the boiler when steam is cut off. The large copper air chamber is of Princess metal, with a nickel-plated water pressure attached. The steam cylinder is eight inches in diameter, and eight inches stroke; the pump is  $4\frac{5}{8}$  inches in diameter and 8 inch stroke; the forward wheels are  $4\frac{1}{2}$  and the rear ones 5 feet high. The engine is thoroughly equipped with tongue rope, hose-brake lamps, headlight and all the paraphernalia for ordinary use. The hose cart is two-wheeled and carries 500 feet of carbolized hose, and is in good condition. The officers of the Company are: Alexander Hichborn, Foreman; J. W. Van Meeter, First Assistant; Alexander Morrison, Second Assistant; James Topley, Treasurer; T. S. Gilbert, Secretary; J. W. Winters, Engineer; Louis Rosine, Stoker. There are fifty-eight members in good standing. The Engineer, Stoker and Secretary are permanently employed; these, together with the Foreman, two, Assistants and fifty-one members constitute the entire Company.

VALLEJO SCHOOLS—*Early Beginnings.*—During the summer of 1855, a Mr. Wilmott, a Methodist minister, solicited subscriptions to raise funds for the erection of a building to be used jointly as a church and school house. Admiral Farragut was then in command of the Navy Yard, and Isaiah Hanscom, Naval Constructor. The paper was circulated among the men on the yard and one thousand (\$1,000) dollars subscribed; many of the men giving a day's pay. General J. B. Frisbie donated two lots on Virginia street, between Marin and Sonoma. The building was soon erected, most of the

work having been contributed by the different mechanics in town. Miss Frost, a relative of Mr. Hanscom, opened a school in this building the same summer, and continued it for several months. The church people desiring to plaster the room requested the school to vacate, and it was therefore moved into the old building, now standing on the corner of Maine and Marin streets, and known as "Smith and King's blacksmith shop." (It is not known whether this teacher was paid in full by tuition bills, or in part from public money).

Miss Frost was succeeded in 1856 by Mr. George Rowell, who, afterwards, in the fall of that year, moved into an old building known as the "Virginia House," now standing on Sonoma street, near Pennsylvania. In the spring of 1857 a public meeting was called, to see what action should be taken relative to building a public school house. Responding to the call the people assembled at the old State House, then standing near where Eureka Hall is now located (afterward burned), and General J. F. Houghton was chosen moderator. At this meeting it was voted to build a house, and money was raised by subscription to pay for the same. Three lots were donated by General J. B. Frisbie, on Carolina street, at the corner of Sonoma, James Newbert being the contractor and builder. The original building was about forty feet square, with ceiling some fourteen feet high. At about this time there were several teachers, who succeeded each other at short intervals; a Mr. Farmer, Miss Coyle, Miss Casson, Mr. Mason, Mr. N. Smith. Up to this time, spring of 1858, we have been unable to learn whether the teachers were paid in part with public money or entirely by tuition bills, but there is reason to believe some public money was received as early as 1857. Mr. E. M. Benjamin, now of San Francisco, was one of the trustees, and employed Mr. Newbert to build the house in 1857.

In the fall of 1859, or spring of 1860, Mr. Fred. Campbell (now Superintendent of Schools, Oakland) took charge of the public school and remained until the spring of 1861. In June of that year Miss Root, now the wife of Hon. S. G. Hilborn, taught for one month, when Mr. Isaiah Hurlburt entered the school as principal, and Miss Root as assistant; they remained until June, 1862, when they were succeeded by Mr. Atchinson and wife, who remained about one year. Mr. J. E. Fliggle then took charge of the school, assisted by Miss Casebolt, who remained until the spring of 1864, when Miss C. resigned, and Miss Alice Pickle was appointed in her place; they continued the school up to September 5, 1864, when Mr. Geo. W. Simonton took charge as principal and Miss Sophia A. Simonton, now Mrs. Harris, as assistant. Prior to 1864 there had been several boards of trustees. E. M. Benjamin was one of the first. J. W. Farmer, E. J. Wilson, A. Powell, M. J. Wright, and others, but there is no data to fix either the date or order. Mr. Wright, however, was a trustee in 1864.

At the time Mr. Simonton entered the school there were two rooms in the



school building, the one built by Mr. Newbert for the principal, and a small room some twenty feet square, added subsequently for the assistant. There were at this time in both rooms about seventy scholars.

The school was ungraded and its entire management left to the principal. During all these years and up to about 1867 the salary of teachers had been paid, in part at least, by rate bills, levied *pro rata* on all the children. From 1864 to about 1871 the increase of children in public schools was very rapid, and it was with great difficulty the trustees could furnish sitting room for the children. Taxes were levied on the people and paid cheerfully, to build school rooms. In 1867 there were five rooms, with as many teachers, packed with children, each having from seventy to one hundred and twenty, frequently compelled to sit on the stage, on boxes or stools, for whole terms.

*Present Results.*—No city in the State has shown more interest in the matter of education than Vallejo. Her people have ever been alive to the importance of giving the rising generation a liberal education. From 1867 to 1869 the influx of population was so great that the school trustees found it very difficult, with the limited means and accommodation at their command, to provide rooms and school furniture for the constantly increasing pupils. In 1869 the board of trustees, viz.: J. G. Lawton, M. J. Wright and I. S. Halsey, determined to submit to the people the question of taxing themselves for the purpose of raising money to build a new school house, and, to their credit be it recorded, the proposition was carried by a large majority and the tax was levied. Plans having been advertised for those presented by Messrs. Hoagland & Newsome, of San Francisco, were approved and the contract for constructing a large, commodious three-story building was awarded to J. W. Newbert, a citizen of Vallejo, for the sum of \$14,000.

With a desire to extend the efficiency of the school department, J. G. Lawton, acting under instruction of the trustees, prepared a special school law for the city of Vallejo, providing (among other things) for a Board of Education, to consist of a superintendent and four school directors, naming the following gentlemen, who should serve until the next charter election, viz.: J. G. Lawton, Superintendent and ex-officio President of the Board; M. J. Wright, Secretary; E. M. Benjamin, B. T. Osborn and I. S. Halsey, Directors. The law was passed by the legislature; and signed by the governor March 25, 1870. The gentlemen above named having been clothed with the proper authority, entered at once into the work assigned them, and labored assiduously for the promotion of the educational interests of the city. On the 6th of July, 1870, the new school-house was turned over to, and accepted by the Board; and although the third story remained unfinished, still the accomodation afforded greatly relieved the pressing demands upon the department. The following description will convey a very correct idea of this beautiful structure: The building is forty-eight feet



front, by sixty-eight feet deep. Eells eight feet wide. Single story, rear wing,  $14 \times 30\frac{1}{2}$  feet. It is three stories high, with Mansard roof, all inclosed in rustic style. Two wings, each eight feet wide, set out at each end of the building, furnishing broad entrances and stairways; these wings are surmounted with observatories. The centre of the building rises to a higher elevation, and upon its crown rests a turret, which serves both as a ventilator and belfry. The class-rooms are lighted from the front by four double, oval-topped windows, and the side elevations are equally well provided with large windows. The first floor is four feet from the ground, and the first and second stories fourteen feet six inches high, and the third fourteen feet. On the first floor, three large school-rooms are arranged for, each having entrance from the wings. Iron columns support the upper floors, and platforms for teachers occupy convenient positions. In the rear are two private rooms for teachers; halls, wash-rooms and wardrobes. The second story is also conveniently partitioned off, affording four good-sized class-rooms. The general style of building is neat, with no excess of ornamentation. Prior to the building of this house, the trustees were compelled to hire rooms in various and unsuitable parts of the city, paying therefor heavy rents; the colored school being in one of the rooms of the United States Hotel. On July 9th, 1870, the Board adopted the classification and course of study in use in the public schools of Providence, R. I., with such modifications as were deemed proper by the Board. The following corps of teachers was employed to teach under the new and improved system: G. W. Simonton, principal of the High-school, W. F. Roe, and Isabella Murphy, assistants; A. W. Dozier, principal of the Grammar department, with William Crowhurst, Miss Lawrence, and J. McFadden, as assistants; Miss Sophia Simonton, Miss Mary Turtelott, Miss Foye, Miss Delia Sweatland, Mary C. Hall and Miss Rutherford, teachers of the Primary department, and Miss Wundenburg, teacher of the Colored school; W. M. Cole, Janitor.

The salaries paid at this time were from \$50 to \$150 per month, aggregating, including Superintendent, Secretary and Janitor, \$1,151 per month. The regulations adopted by the Board provide for a ten-months' school, divided into two terms of five months each, with a mid-term vacation of one week. The school-money received from the state and county was found inadequate, and to make up the deficiency, the following schedule of rate-bills was adopted, payable monthly: "High-school department, each pupil, \$2 50; first and second grade, Grammar, \$2 00; third grade, Grammar, \$1 75; fourth grade, Grammar, \$1 50; Primary department, \$1 00. At the end of the first month after the adoption of this order, viz.: from Jan. 4, to Feb. 15, 1871, the teachers reported to the Board, collections amounting to \$543 70. At the end of May, 1871, the following teachers were elected for the next term: G. W. Simonton, W. F. Roe, and Miss Julia Benjamin, for High-school; A. W. Dozier, Misses Sweatland, Tourtelott,

Benjamin, Murphy, and Mrs. C. A. Kidder (*nee* Simonton) Misses Kate Hall, Anderson, Rutherford, Foye, and Wm. Crowhurst, principal of the South Vallejo school; and Miss Mary Tobin, Etta Thompson, and Miss Watson, teacher of the colored school.

On the 15th of September the following gentlemen, having been elected by the people as provided in the new City School law, were duly qualified, and took their seats as the second Board of Education of Vallejo: Rev. N. B. Klink, Superintendent; I. S. Halsey, Secretary; Luke Doe, J. H. Green and E. H. M. Baily, Directors. The newly-elected members entered at once into the good work begun by the previous Board, and the Vallejo schools soon became famous throughout the adjacent counties, many pupils being sent here for instruction, and large numbers of most excellent teachers making application for positions as instructors.

The first question of importance presented to this Board for its consideration related to the finances of the department. The school-money received from the state and county was only sufficient to maintain the schools for eight months. A special tax of thirty-five cents on each \$100 valuation on the assessment-roll was therefore provided for in the special law before-mentioned, to make up the deficiency. This tax was assessed and collected by the county officials, in the same manner and at the same time of assessing and collecting the state and county taxes, and without cost to the school-fund. This arrangement worked well, and gave great satisfaction to the public; but, unfortunately, the State Board of Equalization the next year decided that all such laws throughout the state were unconstitutional, and issued an order restraining County Assessors and Collectors from assessing or collecting township and district taxes. They further promulgated this principle in the matter of taxation, viz.: "That all taxes levied and collected for township and district purposes must be assessed and collected by officers elected by the people to be taxed." This rendered a revision of the Vallejo School Law necessary. The matter was referred to the Secretary of the Board with instructions to procure legal assistance and so revise the Special School Law as to secure the assessing and collecting of the usual special tax. On the 5th of January, 1874, J. G. Lawton, Esq., presented the revised law to the Board, which, after some modifications, was approved, and the Secretary instructed to forward it to the Hon. J. L. Heald, member of assembly, by whom it was introduced for legislative action; on the 25th day of February following it was signed by the Governor, and has ever since been the school law of Vallejo township. The changes made related more especially to the matter of including the entire township of Vallejo in the school district, and making provision for the election of a township Assessor and Collector as required by the order before-mentioned, emanating from the State Board of Equalization.

At the close of the school year ending December, 1871, Messrs. Gregory,



J. M. Dudley





Hilborn, Lawton, Ashbrook, Dr. L. C. Frisbie, and Rev. C. E. Rich, assisted the Superintendent, Mr. Klink, in making the usual term-examination, and the report made by these gentlemen was highly creditable to teachers and pupils, and quite satisfactory to the Board. On January 2, 1872, the Board adopted a course of study, rules and regulations, and had the same printed in pamphlet form for gratuitous distribution among the people. During this year, Mr. Simonton, the principal, obtained permission of the Board to give a number of public school entertainments, for the purpose of raising money to purchase a suitable bell for house No. 1. His efforts were successful beyond expectation, and the fine bell thus secured to the school department has ever since been ringing out notes of praise to all who participated in this worthy object. The cost of the bell was \$325.

The teachers elected for the term beginning January, 1872, were the same as last term, with the exception that Mrs. Kidder resigned and J. McFadden was elected and assigned to the South Vallejo school.

On the 23d day of April, 1872, Mr. Simonton, after so many years of faithful service in the cause of education, was compelled to hand in his resignation on account of failing health. After several ineffectual attempts on the part of the Board to induce him to continue, his resignation was finally accepted on the 7th of May, 1872. After accepting the resignation of Prof. Simonton, the following resolutions were unanimously passed by the Board:

*Resolved*, That it is with unfeigned regret we are called upon to part with our late Principal, G. W. Simonton, he having filled that position for years with honor to himself, profit to the children of Vallejo, and the perfect satisfaction of the Board.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Board are due, and are hereby tendered to him for many valuable suggestions, and his unremitting efforts in assisting us to arrange and perfect our present school system.

*Resolved*, That we cordially recommend him to all interested in educational matters as a gentleman in every way competent, and worthy of their entire confidence and esteem."

On June 11, 1872, the following teachers were elected for the term commencing July next:

C. B. Towle, Principal of the High School; W. F. Roe, Teacher of Languages; Miss Kate Hall, First Assistant in the High School; Miss Julia Benjamin, Second Assistant, High School; Miss Mary Tourtelott, Third Assistant, High School; A. W. Dozier, Principal of the Grammar Department; Miss F. A. Frisbie, Miss Delia Sweatland, Mrs. C. A. Kidder and Miss J. Belle Murphy, Assistants; Wm. Crowhurst, Principal of the Primary Department; Miss C. F. Barney, Miss Etta Thompson and Fannie Watson, Assistants; J. A. McFadden, Principal of the South Vallejo School; Miss Mary Tobin, Assistant.

On July 13, 1872, a petition having been received from a number of citizens residing near the Orphans' Home asking the Board of Education to open a public school in the Home building, and the consent of the officers of that institution having been obtained, it was agreed to by the Board, and Prof. N. Smith was elected to teach the school, all to be under the same rules and regulations governing the Vallejo Public School.

It may here be interesting to give the amount of money disbursed the past school year as appears from the Secretary's report dated June, 1872. Salaries, \$13,745.45; interest on Mackay's note, \$750; interest on money borrowed to pay teachers, \$510.40; repairs and improvements, \$1,020.39; school supplies, \$691.99; school furniture, \$354.25; rents, \$337; insurance, \$264.35; grading and constructing sidewalks, \$175.40; fuel, \$148.33; water, \$114.80; printing, \$121.25; incidentals, \$129.55; library, \$50; expressage, \$20—total \$18,433.16.

The receipts for the same year were from the following sources: Balance in Treasury at beginning of the year \$69.36; received from the State Fund, \$4,741.35; received from the County Fund, \$7,842.65; received from the District Special Tax, \$4,234.29; received from the City Special Tax, \$2,415.21—total \$19,302.86.

On July 13, 1872, the death of E. H. M. Baily one of the School Directors was announced and suitable resolutions of respect and condolence passed by the Board.

On November 4th following, Mr. F. Carlton having been duly appointed School Director by the Superintendent to fill the vacancy in the Board occasioned by the death of Mr. Baily, he qualified, and took his seat.

January 20, 1873, the Board of Education elected the following named teachers to act as City Board of Examination: N. B. Klink, President; C. B. Towle, W. F. Roe, Melville Dozier, Wm. Crowhurst, A. W. Dozier and W. H. Fry, County Superintendent.

The following teachers were elected for the term beginning in January, 1873: C. B. Towle, Principal of High School; W. F. Roe, Professor of Languages; Miss Kate Hall, Assistant in High School; A. W. Dozier, Principal of Grammar Department; G. W. Simonton, Second Grade; Miss Delia Sweatland, First Division, Third Grade; Miss Julia Benjamin, Second Division, Third Grade; Miss P. A. Frisbie, First Division, Fourth Grade; Miss Isabelle A. Murphy, Second Division, Fourth Grade; Wm. Crowhurst, Principal of Primary Department; Miss Etta L. Thompson, Second Grade; Miss Mary Tourtelott, Third Grade; Miss Jennie S. Klink, Assistant in Third Grade; Mrs. C. A. Kidder, Fourth Grade; Melville Dozier, Principal, South Vallejo; N. Smith, Principal Orphans' Home; Miss Jane Anderson, Colored School.

The year 1873 was made memorable in the history of the Vallejo schools by the erection of the new and beautiful school house now standing on

the corner of Carolina and Sonoma streets. This improvement was made for additional accommodation for the Grammar and Primary Departments. This work was done under a contract with Mr. Charles Murphy, a citizen of Vallejo, for the sum of \$6,500.

It was also during this year that the Board adopted a Diploma to be presented to the graduates from the Vallejo High School. The first graduates receiving this mark of distinction were Misses Maggie Tobin, Mary McKnight, Hattie Dempsey and Mary Long.

On Monday, March 16, 1874, the first election was held under the provisions of the amended School Law, resulting in the choice of the following named gentlemen: J. G. Lawton, Superintendent; I. S. Halsey, Secretary; L. Doe, J. Q. Adams and A. J. McPike, Directors; G. T. Plaisted, Assessor and Collector; and on the 6th day of April they qualified took their seats, and immediately entered upon the duty assigned them.

Through the kindness and courtesy of the City Trustees, early in the year 1874 the Board of Education was furnished with a very pleasant room in the City Hall to hold their meetings and transact their business.

June 5, 1874, Mr. G. W. Simonton having previously obtained permission of the Board to give an entertainment for the purpose of raising money with which to purchase a piano for the Grammar Department, of which he was Principal, reported \$190 as the proceeds of the undertaking. A short time afterward the instrument now in use was secured.

Graduating Class of 1874 — Misses: Mary S. Halsey, Mary Wynn, Etta Foye, Mary Hobbs, Margaret Wakely, Josephine Sundquest, and Margaret Dum.

Teachers elected in June, 1874 — C. B. Towle, W. F. Roe, Jennie Dickinson, Dora Harris, Mary Congdon, G. W. Simonton, J. T. Royal, Wm. Crowhurst, J. S. Congdon, N. Smith, Mrs. C. A. Kidder, Julia Benjamin, Miss C. H. Pinkham, Belle Murphy, Etta Thompson, Mary Tobin, Miss P. A. Frisbie, Mary Foye, Jennie Klink, and D. P. Whitney, janitor.

The Census Marshal for 1874. J. H. Green, Esq., reports: Whole number white children in the township, between 5 and 17 — boys, 800; Girls, 762. Total, 1,562. Colored children—boys, 13; girls, 3. Total, 16. Mongolian under 17—20. Blind—1. Total, between 5 and 17—1,599. Number of children between 5 and 17, who have attended Public school during the year: White—998; Negro, 14. Total—1,012. Number who have attended private schools—263. Number who have not attended any school: White—305; Negro, 2; Indian, 1. Total—308.

Number of children native born, and having native parents—865. Number native born children, having one native born parent—301. Number of children native born, having both parents foreign—1,292. Number of children foreign born—15.

At a meeting of the Board, held July 3, 1874, a resolution was intro-



duced to abolish the colored school, and admit the pupils thereof to the graded schools. The question was fully discussed by members of the Board, the citizens present, with one exception, favoring the proposed change. The resolution was adopted; and Vallejo took the lead in the important question by being the first city to admit colored children to the graded schools, and thus conferring upon them equal privileges with the white children. The whole number of children enrolled July, 1874, were 1,011.

On December 30, 1874, Prof. G. W. Simonton, and Miss Belle Murphy, resigned. April 2, 1875, School Director, L. Doe, having removed to Oakland, tendered his resignation, which was accepted, and David Rutherford was appointed to fill the vacancy. It should here be stated, to the credit of Mr. Doe, that, while acting as a Director, he ever evinced a strong desire to advance the best interests of the Vallejo School Department; always punctual in his attendance at the meetings of the Board, and taking a lively interest in all questions presented. On the 2d of June, 1875, the Board, being in session, much interest was manifested on a proposition to abolish the department of languages. Mr. Halsey moved the adoption of the following: *Whereas*, "It having come to the knowledge of this Board that an effort will be made to induce its members to abolish the department of languages, now in the High School course; and, *Whereas*, Under the present arrangement, the children of the poorest of our citizens stand on an equality with those more fortunate, securing to them the same opportunity to secure a High School diploma, entitling them to the privilege of entering the State University; and *Whereas*, The proposed change would result in a serious drawback to the educational interest of Vallejo, and be looked upon as a step backward in the hitherto onward progress of our city. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That we deem it expedient, and for the best interests of Vallejo and her citizens, to continue the Department of Languages in the High School course."

The question was discussed by members of the Board, and a number of citizens, including Messrs. J. E. Abbott, G. W. Simonton, Hon. M. J. Wright, C. B. Towle, J. P. Garlick, and County Superintendent C. W. Childs. Many interesting and instructive ideas were presented, all tending to show the deep interest the people of Vallejo feel in educational matters. The resolution was finally adopted, and the department of languages thus continued.

On the 28th of May, 1875, Masters Lewis G. Harrier and Samuel Irving, received their diplomas as graduates of the Vallejo High School. It is worthy of note to state in this connection, that both of these young men were at once admitted to the State University.

The teachers for 1875 and '76, were: C. B. Towle, Principal of the High School; W. F. Roe, Professor of Languages in the High School; J. P. Garlick, Principal of the Grammar Department; Viola R. Kimball, Second Grammar Department; Sophia A. P. Kidder, Second Grammar Department;



Anna R. Congdon, Third Grade Department; Dora B. Harris, Third Grade Department; Beverley Cox, Fourth Grade Grammar Department; Jennie B. Chase, Fourth Grade Grammar Department; Wm. Crowhurst, Principal of the Primary Department; Mary Wynne, First Grade Primary Department; Jennie Klink, Second Grade Primary Department; Etta L. Thompson, Third Grade Primary Department; Lucy Gilman, Third Grade Primary Department; Charlotte M. Barry, Fourth Grade Primary Department; Mary G. Tobin, Fourth Grade Primary Department; J. S. Congdon, Principal of the South Vallejo School; Mary A. Foye, Assistant of the South Vallejo School; Nehemiah Smith, Principal of the Orphans' Home School; Fannie E. Smith, Assistant of the Orphans' Home School.

*School Census Marshal's Report—1875.* Number of children from 5 to 17: boys, white, 826; girls, white, 799; total, 1,625. Number of colored children from 5 to 17: boys, 4; girls, 7; total, 11. Number of children under 5, 788. Colored, 79. Children in Public Schools, 963. Colored, 8. Children in Private Schools, 331. Children not attending school, 351.

This Board of Education was elected in March, 1876: J. E. Abbott, Superintendent, *ex-officio* President. School Directors—John Farnham, C. H. Hubbs, D. Rutherford, A. J. McPike; I. S. Halsey, Secretary.

Committees—On Grounds, Buildings, Repairs, Fuel and Warming School Houses—McPike, Rutherford, Abbott. On Janitors, School Furniture, School Library and Apparatus—Hubbs, Farnham, Abbott. On Teachers, Rules and Regulations, and School Discipline—Rutherford, Hubbs, Abbott. On Finance and Accounts—Farnham, McPike, Abbott.

Board of Examination—J. E. Abbott, City Superintendent, *ex-officio* President; C. W. Childs, County Superintendent *ex-officio*; C. B. Towle, Secretary; J. P. Garlick, W. Crowhurst, J. S. Congdon.

Teachers—C. B. Towle, Principal of the High School; W. F. Roe, Professor of Languages in the High School; J. P. Garlick, Principal of the Grammar Department; Sophia A. P. Kidder, Second Grammar Department; Viola R. Kimball, Third Grade Department; Dora B. Harris, Third Grade Department; Hettie Dempsey, Fourth Grade Grammar Department; Maggie Dunn, Fourth Grade Grammar Department; William Crowhurst, Principal of the Primary Department; Mary Wynne, First Grade Primary Department; Jennie Klink, Second Grade Primary Department; Ettie L. Thompson, Third Grade Primary Department; Lucy Gilman, Third Grade Primary Department; Charlotte M. Barry, Fourth Grade Primary Department; E. P. Fouche, Fourth Grade Primary Department; J. S. Congdon, Principal of the South Vallejo School; Mary Tobin, Assistant of the South Vallejo School; Nehemiah Smith, Principal of the Orphans' Home School.

In 1876, the Graduates were Misses: Ida Hobbs, Susan Cheesman, Carrie

Frasier, Gemi Martin, Carrie Barbour, Annie Crocker, Hattie Klink, with Masters Edward Lawton, Louis Long and Charles Batchellor.

On September 29, 1876, Mr. Abbott resigned the position of Superintendent, owing to pressing business in connection with the Vallejo Bank, and the Rev. N. B. Klink was elected to fill the vacancy.

Graduating Class, 1877—Edward Frisbie, Jr., Thomas Robinson, Thomas Dempsey, John Frisbie, Mary Rowe.

Teachers' Election, May, 1877—High School—C. B. Towle, W. F. Roe. Grammar School—J. P. Garlick, Sarah Farrington, Florence Goodspeed, Jennie S. Klink, Mary L. McKennan, Hettie Dempsey, Maggie Dunn. Primary—Mrs. Sophia Kidder, Mary Wynne, Mary Hobbs, Etta Thompson, Lucy Gilman, C. M. Barry, E. C. Fouche, J. S. Congdon, Alice Blank, A. T. Stiles. Janitors—D. T. Whitney and H. D. Lazell

School Census Report of J. S. Congdon, Marshal, for 1877, was: Boys, from 5 to 17, 745; girls, 733; colored, boys, 1, girls, 4; Indians, boys, 0, girls, 1. Total, 1,484. Number under 5 years of age—Boys and girls, white, 795; negro, 2. Native born and parents native, 706; native born and one parent foreign, 384; native born and both parents foreign, 1,149; foreign born, 53. Early in 1878 the Board purchased three additional lots, adjoining the school property, and had the same planted in evergreen trees, and vines. The grounds are intended as play-grounds for the girls and will afford recreation very much needed.

On the 25th day of March, 1878, the indebtedness on the Vallejo school property amounting to \$5,000 was paid, leaving the property entirely unencumbered.

On March 18, 1878, an election for School officers was had, resulting in the choice of J. E. Abbott, Superintendent; John Farnham, D. Rutherford, D. W. Harrier C. H. Hubbs, Directors; T. W. Chamberlain, Assessor and Collector.

On April 1st the Board was organized, having duly qualified, and I. S. Halsey was elected Secretary.

Graduating Class—1878—Maggie Kavanaugh, Lottie Kitto, John Perryman, Katie Brew, Maggie Murphy, Emma Frey, George Greenwood, Minnie Engelbright, John M. Williamson, Abbie Dyar, Julia Stotter, Wells Whitney, Eunice Hobbs, Lutie Dixon, Charles H. Dexter, Lizzie Cox, Florence Devlin, George Klink, Mary Sundquist.

The teachers for 1878 were: High School, C. B. Towle, W. F. Roe; Grammar, H. W. Philbrook, Sarah J. Farrington, Annie Klink, Josephine Sundquist, Hettie Dempsey, Maggie Tobin; Primary, Mrs. M. P. Morris, Mary E. Brown, Mary Hobbs, Mary Wynn, Lucy Gilman, C. M. Barry, Mrs. E. P. Veeder; South Vallejo, J. S. Congdon, Jennie S. Klink.

The Census Marshal's Report for 1878, was: White children from five to seventeen years, 1,481; negro, 7; mongolians, 24, showing a total of 1,512.

Add to these 753 children under five years—makes a grand total of 2,265.

The amount of money required to meet the expenses of the Vallejo School department may be gathered from the following exhibit, taken from the Annual Report of the Secretary, for the year 1878: *Receipts*—Balance on hand at beginning of year \$5,122 84. Total received from State and county, \$18,681 20. Total, \$23,804 04. *Expenditure*—Current expenses, \$17,132 80. Lots purchased, \$522 50. Paid off mortgage, \$5,000 00. Sundries, \$313 08. Balance in treasury, \$835 66. Total, \$23,804 04.

At this term, 1878-79, there are employed twenty teachers, receiving salaries ranging from \$50 to \$150 per month. The monthly pay-roll of teachers and school officers aggregates \$1,625 83. The session lasts ten months of the year, while the revenue is derived from the State and County, and Special District Taxes, the amount required annually being about \$20,000. The value of the school property, including a library of several hundred volumes, many of them standard works of reference, is \$50,000, while there is yearly expended, for library books, under the provisions of the State law, a sum of \$150. The graduates of the High School in Class 1879 were: James McCauley, Edward E. Kavanagh, A. Lulu Frisbie, Netta Meek, Kate S. Klink, Annie L. Wynne, Helen May Towle, and Louise J. Grinnage.

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### MARE ISLAND.

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Much curiosity has been excited by the peculiarity of name given to this island; the origin of its appellation is related as follows: In former days there was only one ferry-boat on the waters near Vallejo and Benicia, a crude one at that, being made principally of oil-barrels obtained from whaling ships, which were secured together by beams and planking; the craft was divided into compartments for horses and cattle, the transportation of which was its principal use. On one occasion, while the boat was making its way from Martinez, on the opposite shore of the Carquinez Straits, to Benicia, a sudden squall overtook her, causing her to pitch dreadfully. The animals, then on board, being for the most part horses, became alarmed and commenced to kick, causing the weak partitions to give way. The vessel was capsized and the living cargo thrown into the bay. Some reached the shore, while others were drowned. Of the former was an old white mare owned and much prized, by General Vallejo; its capture was effected on the island a few days after the disaster, when the General dubbed the place "Isla de la Yegua," or Mare Island.

The island forms a portion of the eastern side of San Pablo bay, its southern end making the intersection of the Straits of Carquinez and Mare Island Straits, the former, which is the outlet of the two largest rivers of



California, the Sacramento and San Joaquin, and the latter, constitutes the improved front of the Navy Yard, as well as that of the city of Vallejo, on the opposite shore, and also the outlet of the Napa creek, which drains the fertile valley above. The distance from San Francisco is twenty-six miles. The island is  $2\frac{4}{10}$  miles in length by  $0\frac{57}{100}$  in width, and is of an oblong form, having a direction from northwest to southeast, while its area is 876 acres. The upland is diversified into hills and level sloping plains, the shore of the bay presenting vertical bluffs lined with a rocky back until nearing the southern extremity, where it terminates in high, rolling hills, with steep, inaccessible slopes to the water. The highest point on the island is at its southern end, where it is 280 feet in altitude. The soil is, away from the marsh or tule lands, of which there are 135 acres, adobe loam and clay overlying stratified sandstone and shale; some good building stone has been found in small quantities, while brick clay of a good quality is to be procured. Small quantities of hydraulic limestone have also been discovered, as has also a few springs of inferior water.

At the northern end of the island there are three large Indian mounds or graves covered over with burnt mussel-shells, upon which nothing will grow. Sometime ago one of these was opened and a large number of skulls, bones, bows, arrow-heads, etc., were found. Each of these mounds has a legend attached to it. They were probably made during the small-pox epidemic which committed such havoc among the native Indians in the year 1839.

The position of Mare Island is admirably adapted for a Naval station. The straits separating it from the mainland is a quarter of a mile wide, and has a depth of five fathoms. The mean rise and fall of the tide is  $4\frac{8}{10}$  feet; while, when the rivers are swollen, the water loses all brackishness. The channel is remarkably direct and easy of navigation, the only defect being a limited shoal called "Commission Rock," which lies at a point nearly opposite the island and about mid-way in the stream. There is deep water, however, on either side of the rock, the deepest being on the side next to the island; and good anchorage is to be found anywhere, the bottom being of a soft and sticky nature.

The first historical fact in connection with Mare Island, with which it has been possible to become cognizant, is that in the year 1850 it was granted to one Castro by Governor Alvarado, and purchased from him by John B. Frisbie and Bezer Simmons, for the sum of \$7,000, who, in turn in 1851, sold it to W. H. Aspinwall and G. W. P. Bissell, in consideration of the sum of \$17,500.

By an Act of Congress, dated 30 June, 1851, appropriations were made, and subsequently a contract entered into between Messrs. Dakin and Moody, and Messrs. Gilbert and Secor, on the one part, and the United States Government on the other, for the construction of a floating sectional



dock on some point on the Pacific coast; and after inspecting positions of likelihood at Benicia and Racoon Straits, Mare Island was selected as the spot offering the greatest facilities for the purpose desired. The dock, of which the measurements will be hereafter given, was first constructed in New York, and then taken to pieces and shipped in four vessels named the "Empire," "California Packet," "Queen of the East," and "Defiance," and despatched round Cape Horn, all of which arrived at Mare Island in the fall of 1852. At this time the entire sphere of the island was overgrown with wild oats and overrun with wild cattle, horses, mules, and one ass, who stood *in loco parentis* to the latter; a solitary squatter occupied a dingy hut among the rank verdure, his principal occupation being the tending of stock; while on the opposite shore, where now the city of Vallejo rears its head, there were but two or three occupied houses. The shores were not as they are to-day. Silting had not then commenced; the mud from the mines had not yet been despatched into the bay by way of the Sacramento river, and it was easy for ships to make fast to the shore. Discharging cargo for the dock was first attempted by means of rafts from mid-stream; a storm coming on, however, caused the vessels to drag their anchors, and thus discovered the depth of water in shore, and helped to solve the riddle of landing dock stores.

The first party to arrive in charge of stores and machinery for the sectional dock was that under D. Peckham, who came in the month of September, 1852; twenty days later the second detachment consisting of six mechanics arrived with Theodore Dean, Manager and Superintendent in charge. Many of the passengers on the vessels who were mechanics sought and obtained employment at the docks, among whom are a number of Vallejo's most worthy citizens, while laborers being few and hard to get, their places were principally filled by sailors who proved to be invaluable workmen in unloading ships, rigging derricks and performing dock-work generally. Labor was proceeded with in such earnestness that in the fall of the following year the dock was completed. Wages were high, the rate at the time being for first class mechanics \$5 and \$6 per day, but when vessels were undergoing repairs, ship carpenters and caulkers got as much as \$9 a day with a glass of grog as an extra inducement to toil. Before the work was handed over to the government the contractors had the privilege of using the dock for a certain number of years which they would appear to have done.

Affairs had arrived at this stage when on August 31, 1852, an Act of Congress was passed authorizing "the Secretary of the Navy to select a site for a Naval Yard and Naval Depot in the bay of San Francisco, the same to be surveyed and a plat thereof to be recorded in proper form, the said Secretary to establish a Navy Yard and Naval Depot on the site and erect a foundry, machine shop, blacksmith's shop, boiler shop, engine house, pattern house, carpenters shop and store houses." The amount of appropriation being \$100,000.

A Board consisting of Commodore John D. Sloat, Commander W. S. Ogden, Lieutenant S. F. Blunt and W. P. S. Sanger, Civil Engineer, were deputed to make the necessary surveys, eventuating in the selection of Mare Island; and it was purchased by the United States from W. H. Aspinwall, G. W. P. Bissell and Mrs. Mary S. MacArthur for the sum of \$83,000, on January 4, 1853, and on February 28th of that year Aspinwall and Comstock bound themselves in the sum of \$200,000 to convey the whole of the island to the authorities. The expenses of the Board were deducted from the original appropriation as was also the cost of erecting buildings, making the first layout on the part of the government to be: Cost of Mare Island, amount paid to Aspinwall, Bissell and Mrs. McArthur, \$83,000; expenses of Board of Survey, \$11,508.20; erection of building for use of yard, \$5,491.80. Total, \$100,000.

As has been remarked above the selection of the site for a Navy Yard was the result of an Act of Congress, approved by the President of the United States, of the 31st August, 1852, and on March 3, 1853, another appropriation of \$100,000 was voted by Congress, for building blacksmith's shop, carpenter shop, store-house and wharf, "Provided, That before this sum shall be expended, the Attorney General of the United States shall decide that the United States have good title to the land upon which the buildings are to be erected." The same Act directs the Secretary to complete and carry into execution the verbal contract for a basin and railway in California in connection with the floating dock already referred to, and on August 5, 1854, a further grant of \$200,000 was appropriated for the continuing of the buildings mentioned above.

The first Commandant of the Yard was appointed on September 16, 1854, Commander David G. Farragut being the officer chosen. At the time of his assumption of office, the island was a mere grazing locality, there being visible only squatters, one or two humble dwellings, and a few sheds which had been put up by the builders of the sectional dry dock. Arrangements for the occupation were pushed with characteristic vigor by Captain Farragut, and on October 3, 1854, the National flag was first hoisted on its newly acquired property.

In the archives of the Commandant's office is preserved a Log in the handwriting of the officer who afterwards achieved such glory for his country and name at New Orleans, when he caused himself to be tied to the shrouds of his flagship, the "Hartford," and ran the gauntlet of the enemy's guns. The pages of Farragut's diary may become tarnished by time, the ink may fade, but his memory will remain untinged as long as the United States will have a history, and be cherished in the hearts of his countrymen in such a manner as is only done for the great and the good.

"September 16, 1854.—Commander Farragut took charge of the Island, and forthwith ordered all of the squatters off—Vara, Gilbert and Antonio Pinto were their names. Weather clear.

“September 17, 1854.—Looked around the Island for the localities specified in the plan of the Navy Yard; also engaged in examining the amount of property on the island that could be advantageously used by Government. Weather clear.

“September 18, 1854.—The sloop-of-war “Warren” came up to be moored as a store-ship for the accommodation of the Yard. Also employed Vara, who was a carpenter, to put up a flag-staff. Paid \$500 for towing up the ship, and \$192 for pilotage. Weather clear.

“September 19, 1854.—Made arrangements to dock the “Warren,” and employed three or four more to work on the Yard and fix foundation for flag-staff. Also sent to San Francisco for lumber and other appliances to work with. Weather cloudy.

And so does this interesting relic go on; day by day are the facts recorded with like simplicity until now it is regarded as evidence, the authenticity of which can never be doubted.

The year 1855 began with great bustle; on January 24th, the stone foundation for the smithery was commenced, and that for the residence of the Commandant was started on the March following, while on April 26th the annexed entry is found in Captain Farragut's Log: “Received by the ‘Napa City,’ the copper-plate for the corner-stone engraved with the following words, viz., ‘This Navy Yard was founded September 18, 1854. Franklin Pierce, President of the United States; J. C. Daffin, Secretary of the Navy; Charles Smith, U. S. N., Chief of Bureau, Docks and Yards; D. G. Farragut, Commandant of Yard; D. Turner, Civil Engineer, A. Powell, Master Carpenter, R. S. King, Master Blacksmith, Mr. Warner, Master Mason. The corner-stone of this building was laid January 23, 1855.”

During the year the Commandant found it his duty to address the men on desertion and the aiding and abetting it, for this offense had become altogether too common; the word in season had its reward, for those employed became steadier, and there was a marked decrease in the number of malcontents. On July 21, an interesting series of experiments was inaugurated in regard to the testing of native woods when Puget Sound timber was found to be very much stronger than Eastern oak and Georgia pine, a result scarcely to be anticipated. On October 26th, we find that the Astronomers of the Exploring Expedition erected the Observatory on the highest point of the island, while the year was wound up by a ball given under the auspices of the Dry Dock Company, who it will be remembered retained possession of the dock for some years subsequent to its completion.

It will thus be seen that the new Navy Yard was assuming something like shape; on the fourth day of the New Year, the planting of trees was commenced. Early in the following month three of the forges in the smithery were completed and ready for use, while the basin to admit the



sectional dock was being completed with all speed. On the 7th of August, 1856, this was effected, water being admitted into it, and on the 25th of September the "Warren" was hauled ashore from the sectional dock and basin, which was the first use of the basin and railway. In the following year another test on the relative strengths of different woods was made, on this occasion between teak and Puget Sound timber, the latter of which again carried off the honors.

Space will not permit of entering into a full detail of the yearly occurrences at the yard; such, indeed, would but tax the patience of the reader; suffice it to say, that but few idle days were admitted into the roll of time; the construction of buildings was pushed with becoming energy, until the works are not to be excelled on any portion of the globe. As the Island looks to-day, it is a credit to all concerned; the buildings are noble specimens of the mason's art; the grounds are neatly laid out and pleasantly wooded; while the rising ground behind shows that its cultivation has not been forgotten, there being 350 acres under the plough, its produce being entirely used for Government purposes, what others may say to the contrary notwithstanding.

Since the appointment of Captain Farragut, up to the present time, inclusive of the present holder of the office, there have been altogether fifteen commandants at Mare Island, as, under :

Commander D. G. Farragut, September 16, 1854; Captain R. B. Cunningham, July 16, 1858; Captain David McDougal, March 13, 1861; Captain W. H. Gardner, June 5, 1861; Captain Thomas O. Selfridge, May 27, 1862; Captain David McDougal, October 17, 1864; Commodore Thomas S. Craven, September 5, 1866; Commodore James Alden, August 1, 1868; Captain Reed Werden, March 17, 1869; Rear-Admiral Thomas S. Craven, April 15, 1869; Commodore John R. Goldsborough, January 1, 1870; Commodore E. J. Parrott, April 15, 1871; Rear-Admiral Thomas O. Selfridge, September 3, 1872; Rear-Admiral John Rodgers, July 3, 1873; Commodore E. R. Calhoun, April 17, 1877.

*The Sectional Dock:*—On Mare Island, is the first erection of the kind ever attempted on the Pacific coast, and was commenced in the year 1852. It is composed of 11 sections, each 130 feet long and 33 feet wide, each section standing 6 inches apart. The extreme length of the construction is 325 feet, and is capable of accommodating a ship of 3,000 tons burthen. The dock basin, in connection therewith, is 400 feet long by 150 feet wide, with a proper depth and ways, 350 feet in length. To get a vessel on to the dock, it is first sunk to a sufficient distance, when she is floated on to it; the water is then pumped out by steam engines, built expressly for the purpose, when the entire structure rises; it is then floated into the basin, being hauled by hydraulic power; the basin is then emptied by means of pumping, and the dock sinks on to the floor, where it becomes a fixture.



The operation of sinking the dock, is to open the gates that are at each end of the main tank; as they fill, they sink, because the combination of wood and iron, of which they are constructed, has made them heavier than water. To keep them under the command of the dock-master, the floats are set in operation by the machinery connected to the steam engines situated in the houses on top of the frame work. The master speaks not a word, but calls the attention of the attendants by a whistle, and by mystical signs conveys his orders to them, and the dock sinks slow or fast, as he wills, to the depth required. The gates being shut, the buoyancy of the floats keeps it in that position.

The vessel is then floated in; the centering beams or shores lowered to a level, run against the sides of the ship, each side being adjusted forward or back, till the numbers on each correspond. Then the vessel is in the center of the dock, ready to be raised. The operation of raising the dock is to pump the water out of the sections and keep it level with the floats. As the water is taken out, the dock rises. To effect this, each section has three pumps on each end, each one with capacity to throw three hundred gallons a minute. They are connected to the machinery above by long rods, and run to the pump, on the deck of the section.

When the vessel is in position, ready to be raised, the pumps are set in operation by a sign, and as soon as the sections lighten a little, the floats are started, and they move downwards on the gear posts just as fast as the post rises, so that the floats keep the same depth on the surface. When the vessel is lifted about twelve inches, the bilge-chocks are run under to support her all around. They are large oak blocks, built up, one on top of another, and connected together by iron dogs, so that they can be made high or low, as the shape of the vessel may require. These slide on ways fastened to the deck of the section, and are held to them under water by bended iron clamps, that slide freely. They are drawn under the vessel by rope and chain, worked by the attendants on the platform of the dock. After the bilge-chocks are set the dock is put in full operation. The floats keep it traveling, by the fast or slow machinery, as the pumps discharge the water, causing the dock to rise, the master governing the operation as he wills, stopping each pump as his judgment dictates and the necessities of the operation requires, till the dock is above water.

*The Stone Dock*:—Now in course of construction, will be, when finished, the finest piece of workmanship of its kind in the United States. Its dimensions are:

	Feet.
Length between inside line of invert and first altar . . . . .	418.
Length of keel block from inside of caisson . . . . .	440.
Length from outside line of apron to outside line of invert.	7.9
Length of invert . . . . .	41.

	Feet.
Width of floor.....	30.
Width of floor on line of keel blocks.....	58.
Extreme length of dock over all.....	525.9
Extreme length of invert over all.....	126.
Extreme length of invert, inside.....	114.
Depth of water at mean high tide on invert.....	27.6
Depth of water at mean high tide on floor of dock.....	32.
Width of entrance to dock.....	78.

The cost of this prodigious undertaking was estimated at \$2,149,099; the masonry alone being put down at \$1,307,877; but concrete has been substituted instead of mason work, as was originally intended, whereby, the expense, it is expected, will be lessened by at least twenty per cent. The cost, up to the fiscal year, ending June 30, 1879, will be \$1,094,146 73. It is built on the principle of an inverted arch, the pressure being entirely from the outside towards the centre; this design serving the purpose of keeping the floor intact should the contingency arise of water sapping underneath. The concrete work, which is, as it were, the shell of the structure, is quite new to America, the idea having been brought from France by Mr. Calvin Brown, the Civil Engineer of the dock; while the lining is of dressed granite; the flooring is composed of granite blocks, averaging five and a half tons in weight, which are placed in position by means of a derrick, and what is technically known as a "Lewis," an iron pin, which is larger at the bottom end than at the top, having a wedge of iron fitted into it, and fixed in a socket in the block. The strain of hoisting causes this to tighten, making the hold secure, while to disengage it requires but a few taps of the hammer. The blocks, by these simple contrivances, are moved at will, and eventually rested on a thickness of four feet of concrete. In connection with this undertaking, there is a concrete mixing machine, which is fitted at the top with two hoppers, into which gravel and sand are put; when started, the contents of the two hoppers meet before arriving on the second floor, where another one is met charged with cement; hereafter they shoot down in a zig-zag fashion towards the floor of the dock, mixing as they descend, until it is discharged, amalgamated in proper proportions.

It was originally intended to construct the dry dock entirely of rubble stone work, but this substitution of concrete will be a vast saving to the Government. The building is provided at its upper end with two timber shoots, while its sides will be constructed after the manner of a staircase. When completed the largest men-of-war that float will be able to be repaired at Mare Island; no little source of pride in itself, yet it is unfortunate that for want of sufficient appropriations by the Government the work can not be proceeded with as rapidly as could be desired, while it is feared that a delay of year after year may have the effect of weakening some portions of the work when nothing but dire catastrophe would result.

*Water*:—Is supplied to the Navy Yard by the Vallejo City Water Company to the extent of 1,000,000 gallons a month, transmitted to the island by means of a submarine cast iron pipe with flexible joints, a distance of two thousand feet across the bed of the straits. Besides this quantity, which is used in the officers' quarters and machine shops, there are thirteen cisterns, capable of containing 1,500,000 gallons of rain water, while there is a reservoir, built during the time of Admiral Rogers' command, which cost \$35,000 (received over and above the appropriations made during his term of office). It is 680 feet in length, with an average width of 265 feet, a depth of 32 feet, and a capacity at present of only 14,000,000 gallons, which could be considerable increased by further excavation. Connected with the reservoir is a tunnel, to connect with the supply pipe, 600 feet long, which is laid in concrete and will fill all the ditches, which are about three miles in length

*Foundry and Machine Shop*:—Which comprises the following divisions, viz.: the foundry, machine, boiler, blacksmith, pattern and coppersmith's shops, is situated at the northeast end of the island and is a magnificent construction of red brick. The dimensions of the machine shop are 365x55, and contains an upper story which is used as the pattern shop. In the lower story of this building are located all the different appliances requisite to turn out the very heaviest machinery which might be required for naval purposes, all of which are put in motion by a condensing engine of eighty horse power. The foundry, forming a wing of this building, has the capacity of making castings of 100 tons, and has room to employ 150 moulders. The floor is 300 feet long by 60 feet wide, and has a depth of 6 feet of moulding sand, which is procured from San Francisco. Within the structure are five cranes, these having a lifting power of 15 tons, while the others are capable of hoisting 25 tons; there are also four cupolas for melting iron, with the following capacity: two of 40 tons, one of 20, and one of 10 tons; in connection with these are two ladles of 20 and 10 tons respectively, while there are three ovens, used for drying purposes, with tracks and carriages to match, of the respective measurements of 20x40, 12x20, and 8x15 feet. The foundry is also supplied with ten brass furnaces, while the elevators and blowers are worked by a separate engine of 20 horse-power. When these works were visited moulding for a screw propeller for the U. S. S. "Iroquois" was being made, which, when finished, will have a weight of about 8,000 lbs. avoirdupois. Castings of 8-inch water pipes, for the use of the yard, were being also proceeded with.

*The Ordnance Department*:—Is in keeping with the other remarkably elegant buildings with which the Navy Yard abounds. It consists of the Ordnance Store-house of 200x60 feet, two stories in height, and built of brick; the Shell House, also of brick, of one story, and occupying a space



of 25x28 feet, and two Gun carriage sheds, one of brick and the other of wood, having a measurement respectively of 150x30 and 100x45 feet. In connection with this branch are two magazines, one of one story in height, fire and bomb-proof, 160x50, and the other 100x45, both being constructed of stone and brick, while in addition there are the Filling House and Shell House, each 100x30 feet, and the Gunner's and Watchman's Quarters. The Magazine Reservation alone occupies an area of 22.45 acres, and is situated at the extreme southern end of the island; in the building are included the Filling and Shell houses referred to above, there being also tanks to hold powder and other rooms appertaining to buildings of this nature; the entire structure is covered with a slate roof. The precautions against fire are numerous and ample. In close proximity to it is a reservoir containing one million gallons of water, which would be used if needed to flood the magazine; in addition, no vegetation of any kind whatsoever is permitted to grow near the premises, for fear of ignition; no painting is done on any portion of the edifice, lest that the oil should by chance ignite, while a particular costume is worn by the employes, (a long smock-frock and shoes of canvas with soles of chamois leather) so that buttons, nails or like substances may not be hastily struck and cause a spark.

On the Yard there is altogether stored about 500,000 pounds of powder; 100,000 projectiles (shot and shell) varying from 12 to 400 pounds; 644 ordinary cannon, howitzers and large guns, the largest size being 15 inches in diameter, the smallest  $4\frac{3}{8}$  inch or 12-pounder howitzers; of small arms, *i. e.*, rifles, bayonets, cutlasses, boarding pikes, etc., there are 2,722, all of which are intended purely for the fitting out of United States vessels-of-war.

This establishment is the very perfection of neatness, indeed so are all of the others, and finds continuous employment for thirteen men, while it is the only department on the Yard that has telephonic communication with the office of the Commandant.

*Construction and Repair Workshops*:—Are of two stories in height, built of brick and cover an area of 400x65 feet. The first of these is used as a block, boat and cooper's shops, with convenient tool-rooms attached. The upper floor of the building is occupied by the office for this department, as also the workshops of the pattern makers and shipwrights.

*The Construction and Repair Store Houses*:—Are also of brick, of two stories, and occupy a space of 400x65 feet. It is used entirely for the storage of all articles of ship chandlery, with the exception of a small space in the east end of the second story, which is occupied by the store clerks, and the

*Bureau of Navigation*:—Whose particular duties are to supply such ship's gear as charts, compasses, chronometers, nautical instruments generally,





G. C. Pearson



lanterns, and all lights and flags. In this office are stored the charts of every known survey in the universe, while there are on its shelves a large and complete collection of the best works bearing on nautical lore.

*The Smithery*:—Is one of the first buildings erected after Mare Island became the property of the United States Government, and is thus apportioned; the main structure is 268x55 feet, and has, two wings, each of 145x55 feet. The first named, and the northern wing, is used by the Bureau of Construction and Repair as Blacksmiths' and Coppersmiths' shops, while in the south wing are contained the Blacksmith shop and Gas Works, under the direction of the Bureau of Yards and Docks.

*The Blacksmiths' Shop*:—Is a marvel of cleanliness and neatness. Its capacity is sixty fires, the forges being all of cast iron with improved water backs. There are three steam hammers in use: the first with 100 pounds of steam has a striking force equal to 30 tons; the second, under like circumstances, 10, and the third 5 tons. In addition, there are two hollow fires, or forges; 4 feet 4 Blooming furnaces with a capacity of 600 pounds per hour; 2 large cranes capable of raising 30 cwt. each; 1 Sturtevant blower with capacity for 60 fires; 3 eyebolt steam dropping hammers used for stamping work, the whole machinery being driven by an engine of 24-horse power.

*Blacksmith's Shop, (Yards and Docks)*:—There are eight forges with Sturtevant blowers, and here is done all iron work used in the building of ships, houses, derricks, and general work required on the Yard, including horseshoeing.

*Gas*:—Is manufactured on the Yard\*from gasoline, a substance which was formerly procured from rosin and fish oils, but now it is the first running from petroleum. The consumption of the oil is about 850 gallons a month, producing 175 cubic feet of gas per gallon, with a quality of light, clear, good, and safe, of fifteen candle power. The manufacture of this gas, on Mare Island, is entirely effected by one man, although there is employment for four; while he has in his charge the supply of meters, lamps, etc. The works are well supplied with all the necessary gasfitters' tools. The

*Store House*:—One of the earlier erections, is a brick building of 400 feet in length by 55 in width, and has, besides two stores, a cellar underneath. This erection is divided, the southern half being occupied by the stores necessary for the bureau of provisions and clothing; while the northern end contains the requisite impedimenta for the bureau of steam engineering. Directly east of the above stands the splendid

*Workshops for Equipment and Repairs:*—Also a two-storied building with cellar, and covering an area of 190x55. In the cellar are stored such articles as tar, oil, etc., while the two upper floors are respectively used as a rigging and sail loft. This is without doubt the finest erection on the Yard, built, as it is, entirely of compressed bricks.

*The Equipment and Repairs Store House:*—Is a brick building two stories in height, of the area of 200x60 feet, and used entirely for the storing of sails, cordage, and general running gear.

*Yards and Docks Workshops:*—This erection occupies 400x60 feet of ground, is also of two stories, the first being used as a machine shop, lumber, and store room; while the upper is apportioned into joiners' shop, paint shop, and offices.

*Iron Plating Shop:*—Is a one-story brick building of 200x70 feet dimensions, with a wing 58x60. It is erected on the site of the old ordnance building, but is at present unfinished.

*Saw Mill:*—The main building of this establishment is 150x55, having two stories, with a cellar. There is also a brick wing attached 55x55, one story in height. The cellar and first story of this building are used as the saw mill, and the second as a mould loft.

*Timber Shed:*—Is a one-story brick edifice 200x70 feet, used for the purpose which its name denotes.

*The Office Building.*—This structure is of most elegant design, and commands an imposing position on a knoll in the centre of the other constructions. It occupies a space of 130x50 feet; is of two stories in height, of brick, with a cellar, used as a store room, boiler room, water closets, etc. The first story is devoted to the offices of the Paymaster and clerks; Executive officer; Naval Constructor, clerks, and draftsmen; Civil Engineer, clerks, and draftsmen; Assistant Naval Constructor and Post office. The second story is occupied by the Commandant, clerks, printer, school room, watchman, library, and court room, used temporarily as a chapel.

*Marine Barracks:*—Is a two-storied brick building of 500x40 feet, wherein are the men's quarters, armory, store room, etc., as well as the residences of the officers of that corps, the Commandant having a house in the reservation, which comprises an area of 24.68 acres, or thereabouts.

*Yard Stables:*—A two-storied brick building 150x40 feet, the upper portion being used for the storage of grain, hay, etc., while the lower one is divided into stables for mules and horses, cart sheds, etc.

*Barn:*—Is a wooden structure 150x40 feet.



*Naval Hospital:*—This noble structure is located on the southern part of the island, near to and on a line with the Marine Barracks, and is a building worthy of a great government. It is 250 feet long, with an average width of 30 feet, with wings and projections, three stories and an attic in height, with Mansard roof. It is an imposing edifice of elegant design, and, from its elevated position, can be seen afar off. The building is of brick, of which one million and a half were required. The walls are of great thickness, and the entire superstructure is of unusual solidity. It is hard finished throughout, and the inside wood-work is of white pine. The whole structure is arranged with special reference to the object to which it is devoted, note having been made of all the recent improvement in this regard, including an elevator, whereby patients and goods are raised and lowered, with ease and comfort, from one part of the building to another. Particular attention has been paid to light and ventilation. Water tanks of large dimensions are placed upon the roof, and a cistern for rain water has been built. In a word, it is all a first-class hospital building should be. To it is attached a stable and gas house. The reservation, in which the hospital buildings stand, occupies an area of about 31.21 acres.

In addition to these already-mentioned buildings, there are the officers quarters, including the residence of the Commandant, all of which (five and a half double and one single house) are built on a beautiful avenue some distance back from the water front and parallel with it. They are a few yards from the sidewalk and possess well laid out gardens in front of them; while on the outside of the walk there is a row of magnificent shade trees. The rooms are spacious and have all the modern improvements, including gas, bath-rooms, etc.

Among the other most prominent erections on the yard are the Bishop's derrick, capable of raising forty tons; the railroad track, laid from the foundry to the saw-mill, a distance of about 3,000 feet; and the Kearsarge column, on the capital of which stands the "fiddle," or figure-head of that famous vessel, while there is a cemetery and light-house reservation, which comprise 6.65, and 4.89 acres respectively.

The following is a list of the naval, marine, and civil officers and attachés of the Navy Yard and Station, Mare Island, on March 29, 1879:—Commodore Edmund R. Calhoun, Commandant; Captain P. C. Johnson, Executive Officer. *Commandant's Office:*—William R. Cox, Jr., Chief Clerk; C. W. Mornington, Second Clerk; B. F. Calhoun, Writer. *Department of Yards and Docks:*—Calvin Brown, Civil Engineer; E. A. Willats, Engineers' and Time Clerk; C. C. Hall, Store Clerk; Thomas O'Connor, Writer. *Department of Navigation:*—Commander C. J. McDougal, Navigation Officer; Lieutenant-commander, Charles H. Craven; Lieutenants, Leonard Chenery, C. W. Christopher; Master, J. S. Abbott; Clerk, Wm. G. Overend. *Depart-*

*ment of Ordnance*:—Commander C. J. McDougal, Ordnance officer; Gunner E. A. McDonald, in charge of magazine; E. J. Overend, Clerk. *Department of Construction and Repair*:—Naval Constructor, George W. Much; Assistant Naval Constructor, George F. Mallett; Constructors' and Time Clerk, George W. Simonton; Store Clerk, John A. Day; Writers, John O. Watkins, Herbert Mallett, N. B. Klink. *Department of Steam Engineering*:—Chief Engineer, M. Fletcher, in charge of department; Chief Engineer, Geo. F. Kutz, in charge of stores; Passed Assistant Engineer, James Entwistle; Engineers' and Time Clerk, A. L. Hathaway; Store Clerk, St. Clair Fletcher. *Department of Equipment and Recruiting*:—Commander, Louis Kempff, Equipment Officer; Boatswain, John Keating; Sailmaker, Thomas O. Fassett; Clerk, A. H. McCobb. *Department of Provisions and Clothing*:—Paymaster, George Cochran; Paymaster's Clerk, Hobart Berrien; Writer, Daniel Hubbard. *Department of Paymaster of Yard*:—Paymaster, George E. Hendee; Paymaster's Clerk, L. T. Binder; Writer, G. S. Gregson. *Department of Medicine and Surgery—Naval Hospital*:—Medical Inspector, John M. Browne; Passed Assistant Surgeons, R. A. Marmon, Hampton Aulick; Assistant Surgeon, C. H. H. Hall; Apothecary, John G. Taylor; Navy Yard Surgeon, George W. Woods; Apothecary, John R. Whittaker. *Marine Barracks*:—Major C. D. Hebb, U. S. M. C., Commanding; First Lieutenants, O. C. Berryman, H. G. Ellsworth; Second Lieutenant, Andrew Stevenson. *Receiving-ship Independence*:—Captain John Irwin, Commanding; Lieutenant-commander, Samuel S. Wilson; Ensign, N. R. Usher; Mate, P. C. Van Buskirk; Passed Assistant Paymaster, Fred C. Alley; Assistant Surgeon, D. O. Lewis; Paymaster's Clerk, John A. Kelly; Boatswain, J. Harding; Gunner, Stephen Young.

There are at present the following vessels of the U. S. Navy In Ordinary at the Yard, Mare Island: Sailing sloop-of-war "Cyane;" steam sloops-of-war "Iroquois," (old) "Mohican," "Narragansett," "Nyack," "Saco," "Benicia," and the iron-clads "Monadnock," and "Comanche." In commission, are the frigate "Independence," steam-tug "Monterey," and yard-schooner "Freda." There have been built, and are now building, the U. S. side-wheel steamer "Saginaw," and the steam sloop-of-war (new) "Mohican." The first of these was constructed in the year 1859, and was of the following dimensions: Register length, 158 feet; breadth, 26 feet; depth, 11.3 feet, and tonnage, 282 tons; she was wrecked on Ocean Island, in October, 1870. In reference to the loss of this vessel, the following interesting record, which is attached to one of her boats, now suspended in the construction-store, is produced: "Gig of the U. S. S. "Saginaw," which vessel was wrecked on Ocean-island reef, Lat. 28 deg. 36 min. N., Long. 178 deg. 25 min. W., October 29, 1870. This boat was fitted out on Ocean Island, manned by a crew of five, who volunteered to sail to Honolulu, distance 1,600 miles, for the purpose of saving their ship-mates. Sailed November

18, 1870, arrived off Kanai (one of the Hawaiian group) evening of December 18, 1870; capsized morning of 19th of December, in surf, while trying to land at Kalihi, Kdai, island of Kanai. Four of the five volunteers were drowned, viz.: Lieut. J. G. Talbot, drowned; Seaman J. Andrews, drowned; Quartermaster P. Francis, drowned; Seaman J. Muir, drowned; Coxswain W. Halford, sole survivor." Halford, for his heroic conduct, was promoted to the rank of Gunner in the Navy, and presented with a bronze medal by the Government. He is now serving on board of the U. S. S. "Lackawanna."

The steam-tug "Monterey," and schooner "Freda" were also built at Mare Island. Besides these, the following ships have received large repairs there: The sloop-of-war "St Mary's," paddle-wheel "Saranac," steam sloop-of-war "Onipee," "Lackawanna," "Resaca," "Kearsarge," "Pensacola," "Benicia," "Tuscarora," and "Iroquois." The vessels now attached to the Pacific station are: "Pensacola," (flag-ship), "Alaska," Jamestown," "Tuscarora," "Adams," with the store-ship "Onward" at Callao, Peru.

In the fore-going remarks mention has been made of the "Monadnock." She now lies in honorable retirement in the straits at Mare Island, her sides and turrets showing the marks of having been in many a hard-contested fight prior to having made the risky journey around "The Horn." A new "Monadnock" is now being built, a few remarks on which we append: The "Monadnock," United States double-turretted monitor now in course of construction at Vallejo, is an item of considerable historic interest to the county, more especially in regard to its shipping interest. The Navy Department at Washington having, for some reason best known to themselves, granted the building of this craft to private individuals, under the plea that it could be so done at a less cost than if built in any of their own yards, gave the contract to Mr. Phineas Burgess, of Brooklyn, New York, to construct a vessel to take the place of the old ship of the same name, bringing into use whatsoever portion of her gear as might be found suitable; the work carried on to be under the supervision of the Government Naval Inspector; Mr. Burgess having as his representative Mr. Wm. W. Vanderbilt, for many years connected with the service of the Pacific Mail Company, on this coast as well as elsewhere. There were three separate contracts entered into: First, the frames, deck-beams, etc., were to be erected by Mr. Burgess; second, the plating-contract, as it may be called, was to put on the inner and outer skin, complete all bulkheads and the iron deck-plating; and third, to place the armor and its backing, to remove the turrets from the old "Monadnock" and erect them on the present ship; to lay wooden berth and main decks, and otherwise to complete the monitor for sea to the approval of the Government Inspector.

The dimensions are as under: Length between perpendiculars, 250 feet; length over all, 263.6 feet; breadth moulded and lower side of armor shelf,



55.0½ feet; breadth, moulded abreast the armor, 50.8½ feet; breadth, extreme, over armor, 55.10 feet; depth, from bottom of flat keelson plate to top of main deck-beams, 14.8; projection of ram built in hull, 10 feet.

The vessel is to all intents a double one, she having both an inner and an outer skin, the thickness of the latter being  $\frac{3}{4}$  and  $\frac{5}{8}$  inches thick, while  $\frac{3}{8}$  inches is the dimensions of the former. Between these two skins there are 84 water-tight compartments, which will add materially to her natural buoyancy, there being besides three athwart ship water-tight bulkheads, which are more particularly to keep her afloat should any unforeseen disaster occur. Her turrets, which are to be two in number, will carry two guns in each, of 15-inch calibre. She will be driven by two pair of compound engines of 500 horse-power each; she will be provided with a twin-screw propeller of 11 feet in diameter; all her machinery will be below the water line; her outside armor plates will be 7 inches in thickness of solid iron, and will extend for three feet below the water line; her smokestack is to be armored for a certain distance; it will also have a telescopic working; she will be rigged with one mast; her draft will be 14 feet; she will have a freeboard, *i. e.*, there will be exposed above the water 30 inches of plating, and her displacement is calculated to be about 5,000 tons. When ready for sea the "Monadnock" will be supplied with a steam launch, and the other necessary small boats, five in number, and her complement of officers and men will be one hundred and fifty.

Unfortunately work progresses but slowly on this magnificent specimen of naval architecture for want of the necessary Government appropriations; were such to be made she could be completed in a year, but under present circumstances it is hard to say when she will be launched and ready for sea. Were the work proceeded with, it could not be otherwise than a great boon to Vallejo, for a decided impetus would be naturally imparted to labor, and bring money, that source of all good, into circulation.

In concluding this sketch of Mare Island's admirable Navy Yard, and with it the Township of Vallejo, no more appropriate leave can be taken than by introducing the story of that maritime pioneer which now lies so peacefully alongside the sea-wall of the Arsenal.

*The "Independence."*—The "Guerriere," 44, the first frigate that had been put into the water, on the seaboard, by the American Government since the year 1801, was launched at Philadelphia June 20, 1814. It was intended that the "Independence," 74, should have gone off the same day at Boston, but she stuck on the ways. She was got safely into the water on the 20th July, however, and was the first two-decked ship that ever properly belonged to the American Navy, the "America," 74, having been given to the King of France while yet on the stocks.

Cooper's Naval History thus gives us the date when the old ship was



launched, to do her part in showing to the world the American flag, and, if necessary, to protect it from and to resent its insults. She made her first cruise as flag-ship of Commodore Bainbridge, in the Mediterranean sea. She was commanded on this cruise by Captain William McCrane, and then by Captain C. G. Ridgeley, sailing from Boston on July 3, 1815, and finishing the cruise by arriving at the same port on December 7, 1815.

Her second cruise was as flag-ship of Commodore J. B. Nicholson, to Europe and Brazil. Commanded by Lieutenant Alexander Slidell, she sailed from Boston on May 21, 1837, carrying out Mr. Dallas, as the American Minister to Russia, and arriving at Cronstadt on the 29th July. After leaving her distinguished passenger with our friends at Cronstadt, she sailed for the Brazil station, stopping a few days at Madeira. Finishing her duty in Brazil, she returned home, arriving at New York March 30, 1840, under the command of Lieut. John Pope.

Her third cruise as the flag-ship of Commodore Charles Stewart, was made in the home or West India squadron. She sailed from New York May 14, 1842, and went to Boston, where Capt. L. Gallagher was relieved by Capt. H. Stringham as Commanding Officer. She then sailed from Boston on September 29th, and made her cruise about the "Indies," returning to New York. Sailing again from that city on June 2, 1843, she visited different ports on the coast and returned to her station, Boston, on December 3, 1843.

Her next cruise was to the Pacific Coast, bearing the flag of Commodore William B. Shubrick, and commanded successively by Capt. E. A. Lavalette and Lieutenant R. L. Page. Sailing from Boston on the 29th August, 1846, and stopping at the different ports of the coast, visiting San Francisco several times, and making a safe and successful cruise, she returned to Norfolk, Va., on the 23d May, 1849.

Her fifth cruise then was made by going a second time to the Mediterranean. This cruise she bore the flag of Commodore C. W. Morgan, and was commanded by Captain T. A. Conover, at her sailing from Norfolk on July 26, 1849. During most of the cruise she was commanded by Commander George S. Blake, and returned to Norfolk on the 25th June, 1852, under command of Captain William Jameson.

The last cruise the old vessel made was in 1855 as flag ship of Commodore William Marvine. Captain W. B. Nicholson was Elect Captain, and Captain Tatnall Commander of the ship. Since then her cruising days are over and she has been used as a receiving ship both at San Francisco and Vallejo, and has often changed commanders. Among them were Captains Carter, Shirley, Phelps, Commander Gherardi and other distinguished officers. She now lies securely moored and comfortably roofed in as a home for old men-of-war's men, some of whom knew her when she was first launched, and raw recruits who take their first lessons in drill.

The old ship although launched too late for the war of 1812 has done good service, especially while on the Pacific Coast under command of Commodore Shubrick, for the "Independence" crew and officers figured in almost every action with the Mexican towns of the coast, and Cooper gives several instances where the American flag was hoisted on shore in token of victory under a salute from the guns of this vessel.

She was superintended in her building by Commodore W. B. Shubrick, and the solidity of her timbers and knees and their present freedom from rot show the care used and skill exercised in the performance of his duty. Built as a 74, it was found that she carried, on her first cruise, the sills of her midships lower-gun-deck-ports only three feet above water. She was razed in 1836, thereby making her a 54 gun frigate; and besides being the first double decked ship that ever went to sea under the American flag, she was the first 74 that was converted in the U. S. Navy.

"She was always called a good sailor and said to behave well at sea. During her cruise in the Pacific from 1846 to 1849 she averaged 140 knots per 24 hours for 400 consecutive days." Her record also says, "Is sure in stays, stiff under canvass, inclined to gripe, and is hard on her cables." (1849-'52) "It has been recommended to dispense with the popo and top-gallant fore-castle, and ten tons of ballast; to shorten the lower masts, and to do away with the tiller on the gun-deck, as it interferes with the working of stern guns."

The good old vessel is now stationed at Mare Island Navy Yard as a receiving ship, and she is as sound in every respect as she was fifty years ago. Although the new order of ships of war have come into use, there are none that are built more substantially than the "Independence."

The seclusion of Vallejo harbor with its beautiful surroundings, is a fit retirement for this Naval Argonaut of California.

## RIO VISTA.

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BY L. L. PALMER, A. M.

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*Geography.*—The township of Rio Vista is situated at the extreme north-eastern corner of Solano county. It is bounded on the north by Maine Prairie township and Yolo county, on the east and south by the Sacramento river, on the west by Montezuma and Maine Prairie township. Its boundary line runs as follows: Beginning at a point on Sutter slough where the Yolo county line intersects said slough; thence in a southerly direction along the bank of said slough to its junction with Steamboat slough, a distance of about four miles; thence southwesterly along the bank of Steamboat (or Marietta) slough to its junction with Cache slough, a distance of about six miles; thence in a southwesterly direction along the west bank of the Sacramento river to the intersection of the Montezuma township line, a distance of about twelve miles; thence north to the intersection of the line with the south fork of Linda slough, a distance of about thirteen miles; thence easterly along the south bank of Linda slough to its intersection with Cache slough, a distance of about five miles; thence northeasterly along the east bank of Prospect slough, a distance of about two and one-half miles; thence east a distance of about one mile; thence north to the Yolo line, a distance of about three miles; thence east to the point of beginning, a distance of about three and one-half miles. The entire distance around the township is fifty miles. The eastern boundary line extends along the Sacramento river and its tributaries, a distance of twenty miles. The greatest width is ten miles. The township is located in north range four, east two.

*Topography.*—The topography of Rio Vista Township varies from the lowest swamp and overflowed lands to the boldest hills. The swamp lands lie in the northern end of the township, extending down as far as Cache slough, and comprising several large islands. A narrow belt of the character extends entirely along the eastern side, bordering on the Sacramento river. From Cache slough southward for a distance of from one to ten miles the land is very level, and is termed locally "the plains." The surface of the country, as we go southward from the plains, begins to undulate gently; and the further south we go the more marked and distinct do the hills become until you reach the very steepest and most abrupt of the famous Montezuma hills. From Rio Vista southward these hills come out to the

river, presenting bold bluffs, the façade of which is broken here and there with canyons and ravines. The swamp lands are comprised of what is termed "tule lands."

*Geology.*—The township does not present any marked geological character, yet, as far as its alluvial formation is concerned, is a study well worth the attention of the scientist. The tule lands are of a character similar to all others in the Sacramento valley, viz., an alluvial deposit intermingled with the deposits of decaying vegetation. The formation of these lands has necessarily been slow, and it has doubtless taken almost countless years to fill the great basins of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers from the Granite mountains, from whence the supply must come. This loam extends from a depth of a few feet to nearly 100 feet, and the whole body of it is an heterogeneous mass. Underneath this, and what once formed the bottom of the great inland sea, lies a stratum of argillaceous clay called locally the "hard pan." The formation of the "plains" is a kind of clay, pregnant with alkali. Occasional spots of adobe also appear in this section. The hills are formed entirely of adobe, varying through all the grades of that peculiar soil. The formation of and peculiar phenomena presented by the hills would afford ample matter for a long dissertation.

*Character of Soil.*—The soil of the swamp districts is a rich loam, alluvial in formation, and very rich and productive. Almost all kinds of grains and vegetables thrive well. The soil of the plains is clayey, and adapted mostly to grazing, with occasionally a small spot fit for cultivation. The hills are entirely adobe, and well suited for growing grain, but of little value for other purposes.

*Products.*—The products of Rio Vista Township are as varied as the State of California itself. In the warm, rich loam of the lowlands are perfect hot-beds, and produce almost everything. Grain, vegetables, fruits, berries, &c., do well. On the plains only grain grows to any extent, although there are some fine garden spots, where vegetables and fruits thrive with proper irrigation. The hills are adapted almost exclusively to the growing of grain. Wheat and barley are the cereals grown in this township.

*Climate.*—The climate of the township is quite uniform—being mild, cool and pleasant. The cool and refreshing trade winds prevail during the summer season, which modifies the temperature, and causes the climate to be the most salubrious.

*Shipping Facilities.*—Probably no township in the State enjoys such extended shipping facilities as this. The Sacramento river extends along its entire eastern and southern boundaries, while Cache, Elk, Miner, and



other sloughs extend through portions of it. Ships of any burthen can come to the very doors of the farmers and receive their products. The stage of water up the river as far as Rio Vista will accommodate vessels of any size.

*Early Settlement.*—So much for the general features of the township. We now pass to its settlement. The earliest record we can find of any settlement is that established by General John Bidwell, in 1844. In the case of John Bidwell *vs.* the U. S. Ulpinos grant, one Samuel J. Hensley testified as follows: “In the fall of 1844 I took Mr. Bidwell on board of a schooner to the land (Ulpinos, or Bidwell grant) with some hands to make a settlement. They remained there and built an adobe house, in which an Englishman, who had charge of the building, remained during the winter. The next season a small part of the land was cultivated, and in the winter of 1845–46 the house was occupied by P. B. Reading and hands.” This house was located on the land now owned by Geo. H. Jenkins. The hands spoken of in the above were mostly Indians. There was quite a rancherie of them there during that and the following winter, and they were known as “Bidwell’s Indians.” During the year 1846, a party of emigrants arrived from the East. As this was before the days of gold, an eligible agricultural location was always sought for by these hardy pioneers—the advance ripples of the great flood-tide of immigration which was so soon destined to flow in upon the great Pacific shore. This party was induced by Bidwell to go down the Sacramento river and spend the winter on his grant, hoping to dispose of portions of it to them in the spring. The winter was a severe one on the poor settlers, and for many days during the rainy season starvation seemed to stare them in the face. The Indians were reduced to a fearful extremity also; and, as the days passed wearily and drearily by, their frequent exclamation was “hale-che-muk,” which means nothing to eat. For years that name was applied to the Bidwell settlement, and in many of the real estate transfers on record the grant is mentioned as the Hale-che-muk grant. In the spring of 1847 the party of immigrants left never to return to Hale-che-muk, the city (?) of starvation. Most of them passed over into the valleys on the western side of the county, and some of their descendants remain there at the present time. Perhaps, before going further in this history, it would be well to give the recorded history of the Ulpinos Grant. In 1844 General John Bidwell sent the following petition to Micheltoarena, Governor and General-Commandant of the Department of the Californias, under the Mexican Government:

“MONTEREY, April 30, 1844.

“*To His Excellency, the Governor:*

“Juan Bidwell, native of the United States, with the most profound respect, presents himself and sets forth:

“That, having been naturalized a Mexican, and desiring to devote himself to agriculture, he beseeches your Excellency to vouchsafe to grant him the tract known by the name of ‘Sillac’ or ‘Ulpinos,’ which tract is unoccupied. It consists of four ranges (sitios) for meat cattle, as shown by the design which he duly annexes, and its boundaries are: On the N. W. unoccupied lands, to the N. E., the “Ulpinos Slough,” (Estero), to the S. E., the river Sacramento, and to the S. W. unoccupied lands. Wherefore he prays your Excellency to vouchsafe to accede to this his humble petition, and give orders that said tract be adjudicated to him in colonization, wherein he will receive a grace. He makes the necessary verifications.

“JUAN BIDWELL.

“MONTEREY, April 30, 1844.”

J. A. Sutter duly certified that the tract was then occupied. Upon the receipt of the petition, the Secretary suggested to the Governor that it might be well to allow the matter to remain in suspense till such time as the Governor might make a visit to the river Sacramento. Whereupon the Governor so ordered. This evidently did not satisfy Bidwell, for we find that under date of July 26, 1844, the Governor issued the following order: “Let him occupy it provisionally till I go up, when I will dispatch the business.” It does not appear whether Governor Micheltorena ever paid that visit or not, but in November, 1844, he issued the following order and decree:

“MONTEREY, November, 1844.

“In view of the petition, wherewith these proceedings originate, the reports and all other things that were brought forward, and were proper to be kept in view, conformably to the laws and regulations affecting the matter, I declare Don Juan Bidwell, a naturalized Mexican, the absolute owner of the tract known by the name of Los Ulpinos, (here follows boundary as above) containing four ranges (sitios) for meat cattle. Let the proper patent be issued, be entered of record in the proper book, and let these minutes of proceedings be forwarded to the most excellent the Departmental Assembly for its approval.

“His Excellency, Don Manuel Micheltorena, Brigadier-General of the Mexican Army and Adjutant-General of the staff of the same, Governor, General-Commandant and Inspector of the Department of the Californias, has so ordered, decreed, and subscribed, which I certify.”

Very shortly after the above was issued from the Governor-General, he saw fit to issue to Bidwell a true grant to the rancho in due and legal form. This paper bears date of November 20, 1844. The following is a copy of the translation of that grant as filed in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Land Commissioners in San Francisco:

“First-class stamp, eight dollars. Issued provisionally by the Customs of the Port of Monterey, in the Department of the Californias, for the years 1844 and 1845.

[SEAL.]

“MICHELTORENA,

“Pablo de la Guerra.

“The citizen, Manuel Michelt'a, Brigadier-General of the Mexican Army, Adjutant-General of the staff of the same, Governor, General-Commandant, and Inspector of the Department of the Californias.”

Whereas, John Bidwell, a naturalized Mexican, has solicited, for his own benefit and that of his family, the tract known by the name of “Los Ulpinos,” bounded at the N. W. by waste lands, at the N. E. by the Ulpinos Pond, at the S. E. by the Sacramento River, at the S. W. by waste lands, the necessary legal steps and investigations having first been duly taken, as provided by the laws and regulations, by virtue of the faculties conferred on me, in the name of the Mexican nation, I have come to grant to him the tract aforesaid, declaring the same to be his property, by these presents, letters subject to the approval of the Hon. Departmental Assembly, under the following conditions :

1st. He shall have no power to sell it, to alien it, to encumber it with rent-roll, lien, bond, mortgage or other encumbrance of any kind, nor shall he even have power to donate it.

2d. He may fence it without, prejudice it without, prejudice to the cross-roads, highways and rights of way, he shall enjoy it freely and exclusively, applying it to the use or custom which best may suit him, but within one year he shall construct a house which shall be inhabited.

3d. After confirmation to him of the title, he shall solicit from the Judge who has jurisdiction that judicial possession be given to him, by virtue of the grant, and thereby shall be marked out the boundaries, in the lines of which he shall place, beside the corner marks, some fruit or forest trees of some utility.

4th. The tract hereby conceded is of four (sitios) ranges of large cattle, as set forth by the design relating hereto. The Judge who may give possession will cause the same to be measured according to law, the surplus remaining the property of the nation for its own proper use and benefit.

5th. If he shall break these conditions he shall lose his rights to the tract, and it may be claimed by others.

Wherefore, I order that these presents, being his title deeds, be considered firm and valid, that they be recorded in the proper book, and delivered to the party in interest for his security and other uses.

Given at Monterey, November 20, 1844.

MANUEL MICHELTORENA.

MANUEL JIMENO, Secretary.

This grant is recorded in the proper book, pp. 12 se.

JIMENO.

In a few years more the Mexican Government lost its claim to California and Bidwell thinking, doubtless that the obligations which bound him not to dispose of any portion of the grant were null and void, began to sell portions of the grant. The first sale was made to Jacob D. Hoppe and Lucy Hoppe, his wife, deed bearing date of October 15, 1847. The consideration was \$500, and the land transferred was "an undivided one-fourth of the tract of land known by the name of 'Hela Chammac,'" being one league square. The deed was a warranty deed, and was witnessed by L. W. Boggs. It was acknowledged before George Hyde, 1st Alcalde of San Francisco. Numerous other tracts were disposed of by Bidwell, all being undivided fractional portions of the grant. A full list of these transfers will be found in the list of transfers farther on.

After the United States obtained possession of California the titles of Mexican grants began to get a little "shaky," and required, in many instances, a considerable "bracing up." This grant was no exception to the rule, and we find that on the 3d day of September, 1852, John Bidwell brought his claims to the Ulpinos grant before the Board of Land Commissioners at San Francisco for confirmation. The matter was before the commissioners for a long time, and on the 17th day of January, 1854, "Commissioner Thompson Campbell delivered the opinion of the Board confirming the claim." The opinion of the Board is a full and complete review of the case in all its legal and historical bearings, and is well worthy a perusal. The measurement of the grant was now declared to be 20,000 varas by 5,000 varas, containing four leagues. On September 13, 1854, the United States took the initiatory steps toward appealing the case to the United States District Court. The appeal was filed July 16, 1855, and petitioned the Court for a reversal of the decision of the Commissioners. John Bidwell filed his answer on the 20th of July, 1855, and prayed that the decision of the Board be affirmed.

On the 29th day of October, 1855 the decree of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, Ogden Hoffman, Jr., Judge, was filed, confirming the decision of the Commissioners. On the 10th day of January, 1857, Hon. Caleb Cushing, Attorney General of the United States, wrote to Wm. Blanding, U. S. District Attorney, stating that this case would not be prosecuted any farther by the United States. Upon receipt of this letter the United States District Attorney instructed Judge Hoffman to make the final decree of confirmation. This final decree of confirmation was made by Judge Ogden Hoffman on the 21st day of March, 1857. The matter ran along very smoothly for nearly ten years, when a patent was issued by the United States to John Bidwell for the grant. This patent is dated August 9, 1866, and is signed by A. Johnson, President. The number of acres contained in this grant, as specified by the Surveyor General, is seventeen thousand, seven hundred and twenty-six (17,726). So much for the legal history of the grant insomuch as John Bidwell is concerned and the validity of his title to it.



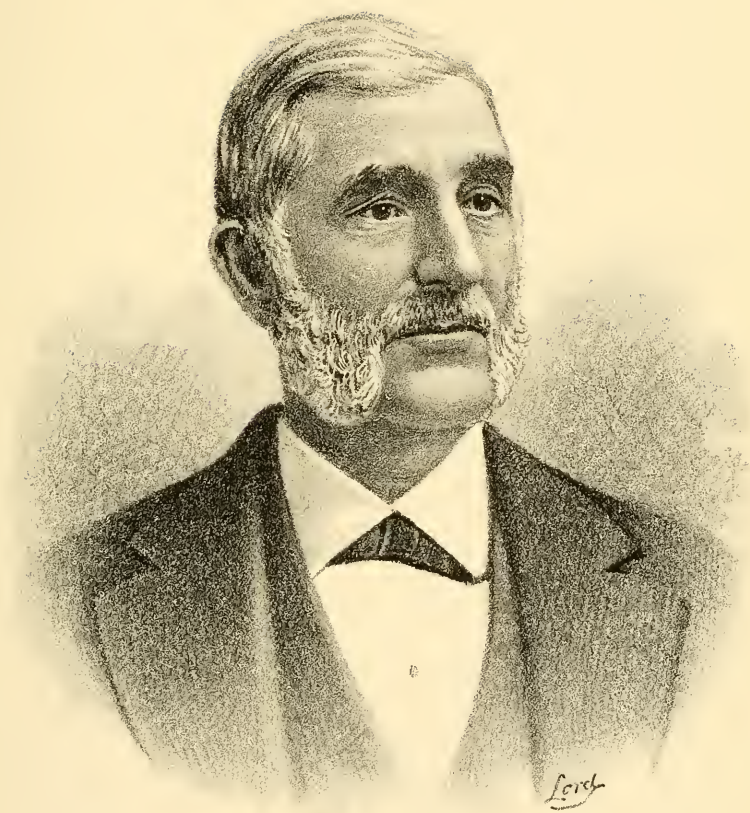
*Proceedings in Partition.*—From time to time Bidwell had sold to various parties undivided fractional portions of the grant, until it was in a badly jumbled state, as regards boundary lines. On the 10th day of August, 1855, in the District Court of the Seventh Judicial District, in and for Solano county, one of the claimants, Samuel J. Hensley, entered a suit for partition. At that time the ownership was vested as follows: Samuel J. Hensley, one-eighth; Sarah B. Gillespie, one-sixteenth; Chas. R. Bond and J. Tuttle Smith, assignees of C. V. Gillespie, one-fourth; Alex. G. Abell, one twenty-fourth; E. H. Board, one twenty-fourth; Phœbe S. Van Nostrand, one thirty-second; Charles L. Ross, one-twelfth and one-eighteenth; D. L. Ross, one-twelfth, also an interest in 2,000 acres claimed by Chas. L. Ross; I. C. Woods, an interest in 2,400 acres of the interest of Chas. L. Ross; John Denn, one-eighteenth; Hiram Grimes, one thirty-second; David N. Hawley, one thirty-second; John Curry, one thirty-second; R. B. Norman, one-sixteenth, including the claim of John Curry; Samuel Price and Fred. Green, (Price & Co.), an interest in the interest of R. B. Norman; Mary P. Buckley, two hundred and fifty-four thousandths; Chas. L. Ross also claimed seven hundred and sixty-four thousandths by virtue of a tax title. It was prayed by the plaintiff that a sale be made and the proceeds equally divided among the claimants. Col. N. H. Davis was the attorney for plaintiff. Due summons was to said claimants issued from the Court. Several of them filed answers, all favoring the idea of an equitable and legal adjudication of the entire matter. B. C. Whitman, of Benicia, was appointed as referee. The referee proceeded at once to make arrangements for the sale. The entire rancho was divided into twenty equal tracts, the measurement being made along the river front, and extending back one league. The sale occurred on the 3d day of December, 1855, in front of the Court House door in the town of Benicia. The purchasers and the amount given for each tract is as follows: Lot No. 1, N. H. Davis, \$125; No. 2, Josiah Knowles; \$141; No. 3, N. H. Davis, \$40; No. 4, J. Denn, \$225; No. 5, C. V. Gillespie, \$250; No. 6, A. G. Abell, \$275; No. 7, same, \$220; No. 8, S. C. Hastings, \$200; No. 9, C. V. Gillespie, \$145; No. 10, same, \$150; No. 11, S. C. Hastings, \$185; No. 12, J. Wilcoxson, \$55; No. 13, C. V. Gillespie, \$80; No. 14, N. H. Davis, \$80; No. 15, same, \$50; No. 16, same, \$50; No. 17, same, \$95; No. 18, Robt. Beasley, \$75; No. 19, same, \$75; No. 20, same, \$75. Total, \$2,591. In less than a quarter of a century the value of this land has advanced so much that at a forced sale, similar to this one, it would doubtless be sold for more than \$50,000. It is noticeable that the referee was allowed \$500 for his services and costs of reference, an amount equal to about one-fifth of the proceeds of the sale, and that amount was taken from the proceeds of the sale. The desired result of the sale was secured, and there has since been no litigation, nor is there liable to be, as the title is almost absolutely perfect.

In the year 1851 Robt. E. Beasley located on the southern end of the Ulpinos grant and built what was always known as the "twin houses." This was one of the houses which came around the horn in an early day already framed. The purchaser had no idea of the style of architecture of his house when he bought it, and was surprised when he began to construct it to find that it was framed as a double house. The site of the house was about 200 yards above the present location of Toland's Landing. Beasley established a ferry at this point, between Sherman Island and the main land, using a flat boat and a chain. Robt. E. Beasley was a peculiar genius; a veritable Utopian. All old settlers will remember his (locally) famous pronouncement of peace, issued by him during the war of the Rebellion, in which he supposed he had solved all the questions of dispute, and set forth a plan for the amicable adjustment of all differences between the North and South. Poor Beasley died without seeing a realization of any of his many vast projects, and his body was shipped by express to the nearest cemetery, and no friend followed him to his last resting place.

*Development.*—For years the land of this township was considered fit for nothing but grazing purposes. It was never dreamed that grain would flourish in any portion of it. Small portions of land were planted in grain about 1862, and it was found that they flourished well. The year 1864 was exceedingly dry and crops an entire failure; but after that the merits of the rich adobe soil became rapidly to be appreciated, and that township now ranks among the first in the county.

RIO VISTA.—Rio Vista is the only town in the township. In the fall of 1857, Col. N. H. Davis surveyed and recorded a town plat on lot No. 3 of Ulpinos grant. The site of this proposed town was situated about one mile below the mouth of Cache slough. It was called Brozos del Rio, (Arms of the River) from the circumstance that it was situated so near three branches of the Sacramento river. The name, however, was changed three years later to Rio Vista, (River View) at the suggestion of Mrs. Dr. Kirkpatrick; a very appropriate name also. At that time Col. Davis' residence was the only house on the site.

The next building placed upon the town site was a store-house moved from Sidwell's Landing, on Grand Island, and occupied by A. G. Westgate for mercantile purposes. This building stood on the corner of Front and Main streets. This was followed in rapid succession by a butcher-shop by A. J. Bryant, a hotel by W. K. Squires, a blacksmith-shop by Simon Fallman, a salmon cannery by Carter & Son, a store by S. R. Perry, a drug store by James & Thomas Freeman, (they also had an hotel), a livery-stable by James Hammel, and several private residences, making in all quite a little village.



D. A. Hastings





In the spring of 1858 Colonel Davis constructed a wharf 24x75 feet. John M. Sidwell was the builder. In 1859 the California Steam Navigation Company came into possession of the wharf and enlarged it to 150x48 feet. The magnificent steamers "New World," "Antelope," "Eclipse" and "Senator" were then plying the Sacramento, touching daily at Rio Vista.

Colonel Davis established a post-office in the town, probably in 1858, and that made it a sort of headquarters for all the surrounding country, as there was not an office within twenty miles at that time.

At this time there was an untold abundance of salmon in the river, and hundreds of men were engaged in fishing. As there was no other landing between Sacramento and Benicia, there were thousands of fish shipped from this point daily, and, as a consequence, the town was full of men, and money was spent with a lavish hand.

Everything flourished in the new town for five years, when a circumstance occurred which was destined to sweep the town out of existence at one swoop. Sometime in the Fall of 1861 it commenced raining, and continued almost incessantly for the fabled forty days and nights. The consequence was the water increased to unheard of heights. During the last days of December, 1861, the water rose high enough to sweep away all the smaller buildings in the town, but it was reserved for January 9, 1862, to be the culmination of the fearful tragedy whereby a whole village should be swept out of existence and its people escaping barely with their lives. On that day the water stood twelve feet deep at the foot of Main street. For miles, in all directions, the face of the earth was covered with a wild waste of waters. All day a fearful rain-storm prevailed and a southeast gale swept over miles and leagues of seething sea. The angry waves in their wild confusion dashed against the buildings with giant force, and all were total wrecks long before night. The houseless and homeless people gathered together on the top of a mound a short distance below the town. They brought a few things with them and managed to eke out a most miserable existence for a few days until steamers came and took them off. Those days and nights of misery and privation are, perhaps, among the hardest the early pioneers of California were called upon to undergo; and no incident recorded in song or story, either truth or romance, is more replete with pathos than the recital of the scenes and incidents of those eventful days. All that is now left to mark the site of the once thriving village are a few decaying piles which formed a part of the wharf. A few strangers sleep in unknown graves near there. Cattle now graze in peace and quietude where was once the busy mart of trade.

Shortly after this, perhaps in the month of March, 1862, several of the former residents of the old town began casting about for a more secure place whereupon to pitch their tents—a location above the reach of the raging floods and angry waves. A party of four men, consisting of William

K. Squires, S. R. Perry, J. M. Sidwell and Isaac Dunham, went to see Mr. Joseph Bruning, who owned a ranch on the upper edge of the Montezuma hills. Negotiations were at once entered into, and the northeast corner of Mr. Bruning's ranch was the site chosen for the new town. Accordingly Mr. Bruning surveyed and recorded the town plat of "New Rio Vista," in 1862. T. J. McWorthy, who then owned the Gardiner ranch, surveyed and recorded an addition to the town. Main street is located on the line of division of the two ranches, and the town has grown up on either side of it.

The first store was erected by S. R. Perry. This was followed by an hotel by J. M. Sidwell, an hotel by Wm. K. Squires, and many other business and private buildings. Many of the people who had lived in the old town settled in the new town, and went on with their former occupations just as if nothing had ever occurred. The new town grew rapidly, and in a short time far exceeded the old town.

The post-office was established at S. R. Perry's store with S. R. Perry as postmaster. The wharf was built by Joseph Bruning in the Spring of 1862. In 1866 the steamer "Yosemite" blew up at this wharf, killing about eighty persons. Of this number about thirty were Chinamen.

The first church building erected in Rio Vista was the Catholic. It was built in June, 1868. The only other church building in town is the Congregational, which was erected in August, 1868. The first public school was established in the Fall of 1862. James U. Chase was the first teacher.

The present site of Rio Vista is 64 miles from San Francisco, 50 miles from Sacramento and 25 miles from Fairfield. It lies on the western bank of the Sacramento river, in the eastern part of Solano county. It is in the heart of one of the most prosperous agricultural districts in the State. The Montezuma hills, at its back, is unrivalled for grain, and vast bodies of swamp and overflowed lands lie in front of it extending far away to Stockton, all in process of reclamation. These lands will prove, when reclaimed, to be an inexhaustible source of fruit, vegetables, grain, etc.

There are two lines of steamers which land here, going each way, daily, with the addition of an occasional opposition steamer. The C. P. R. R. Company's steamers carry Wells, Fargo & Co's express and the U. S. Mails. The California Transportation Company's steamers run up Old river, and ply chiefly in the fruit trade.

Rio Vista is the present terminus of the Montezuma telegraph, which affords great facility of communication with the markets, and the outside world generally.

The town is supplied with water from the Sacramento river. It is lifted by steam and placed into large tanks situated on an eminence near the center of the town; thence it is distributed through the town by mains and service pipe. The manager of this enterprise, R. C. Carter, is an old pioneer

of the town. Abundance of water can also be had by boring, and at no great depth.

The great amount of hay and grain grown in this vicinity demand warehouses with large storage capacity. In the town there are three, with room for the storage of 6,000 tons of grain and 6,500 tons of hay, while at New Town Landing, about a mile above Rio Vista, there are warehouses with a storage capacity of 4,000 tons of grain and 3,500 tons of hay. There are also houses at Toland's Landing, on the river a few miles below Rio Vista, which have a very large storage capacity. A large portion of the grain is also taken to Bird's Landing.

For a statement of the various kinds of business conducted in the town we refer our readers to the business directory. Other matters of importance will be found under their appropriate headings.

*F. and A. M.*—Rio Vista Lodge No. 208, Free and Accepted Masons, was organized June 5, 1870. The following named gentlemen were charter members: Robert Martin, G. H. Bell, C. A. Pine, Jas. Johnson, G. W. Kynock, J. Pool, Chas. Martell, S. P. Sorenson and J. S. Cook. The first officers were: Robert Martin, W. M.; C. A. Pine, S. W.; Geo. H. Bell, J. W. Following is a complete list of the W. M's from the date of organization to the present time: Robert Martin, 1870; J. S. Cook, 1871; C. A. Pine, 1872; Josiah Pool, 1873; Rev. A. F. Hitchcock, 1874; T. P. Emigh, 1875, re-elected 1876; Dr. M. Pietrzycki, 1877; Jas. Johnson, 1878. The following named gentlemen are the officers elect for the ensuing year: E. C. Doziel, W. M.; J. E. T. Smith, S. W.; W. B. Pressley, J. W.; A. H. Peterson, Treasurer; J. C. Kraus, Secretary. The present membership is 43. The order is in a very prosperous condition.

*I. O. O. F.*—Rio Vista Lodge No. 180, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized September 21, 1870. The following named gentlemen were charter members: Jas. Johnson, S. P. Sorenson, A. H. Hawley, M. S. Stone, John Davis and Chas. Davis. The following named members have served as N. G's: M. S. Stone, 1870; S. P. Sorenson and A. H. Hawley, 1871; Jas. Johnson and E. W. Westgate, 1872; J. D. Ingersoll and Wm. Ferguson, 1873; J. M. Perry and Rev. A. F. Hitchcock, 1874; Jos. Nevin and J. C. Kraus, 1875; John O'Hara and J. E. Pratt, 1876; J. E. Pratt, (re-elected) and John Davis, 1877; A. H. Peterson and S. Neilson, 1878. Following is the list of officers elect for the ensuing term: Simon Neilson, N. G.; Jerome Emigh, V. G.; J. C. Kraus, Secretary; S. P. Sorenson, Treasurer. The present membership is 65.

*C. of R. C.*—River View Encampment No. 6, Champions of the Red Cross, was organized October 4, 1872. The following is a list of its charter mem-



bers: J. D. Ingersoll, J. D. Tillery, Wm. Ferguson, Jas. Williams, Mrs. H. W. Stone, S. C. Edwards, Mrs. Emeline Westgate, C. A. Pine, Mrs. M. E. Kraus, J. T. Hadley, R. C. Sidwell, Thos. E. Morgan, Mrs. M. E. Morgan. The following named persons are the officers elect for the ensuing term: J. F. Morey, Com.; Mrs. M. Davis, J. C.; H. H. Hudson, R. S.; Jas. Williams, Treas.

*Rio Vista H. and L. Co.*—The Rio Vista Hook and Ladder Company was organized October 21, 1871. The following named gentlemen were organizing members: S. Craner, R. C. Sidwell, Jas. Donovan, Chas. Scarlett, G. W. Roberts, Chas. Green, R. C. Carter, J. M. Sidwell, W. W. Elliott, Jas. Johnson, Geo. Clarridge and H. Craner. R. C. Carter was the first Foreman. The company have always been in a very prosperous condition, and the present membership numbers 30. S. Nielson is the present Foreman. The company, with the aid of the citizens, has supplied the town with 72 buckets, several hooks, ladders, axes, etc., and with their own private means have purchased 500 feet of four-inch hose at an expense of \$300, and have lately constructed a building at an expense of \$245.

*Congregational Church.*—The "First Church of Christ in Rio Vista" was organized by Rev. J. H. Warren, Superintendent of the American Home Missionary Society for California, and Rev. S. B. Dunton, Acting Pastor of the Congregational Society in Rio Vista, on the 29th day of May 1869. The following are the names of the original members of the Church: Rev. S. B. Dunton, Mrs. H. W. Stone, Mrs. N. J. Munson, Mrs. Virginia E. Brown, M. S. Stone, Jos. Munson, Dr. L. F. Dozier, Josiah Pool, Dr. S. C. Brown, Mrs. Mary E. Hawley, Jarvis Emigh, Peter H. Hamilton, Mrs. A. E. Pool, Barton Dozier, Margaret Brandon, Neil Cook, Rob't Watson, Mrs. Mary A. Watson, D. McCormac, Mrs. Catherine McCormac, Mrs. Ann Denoville. The following-named gentlemen have acted as pastors since its organization: Rev. S. B. Dunton, acting Pastor from May 29th to November, 1869; Rev. J. J. Powell, elected October 24, 1869, installed March 2, 1870; Rev. A. F. Hitchcock, elected December 29, 1872, installed March 19, 1873; Rev. G. F. G. Morgan, elected May 1, 1875; Rev. G. H. Smith, elected September 24, 1876. The present membership is forty-six.

*Congregational Sunday School.*—A Sunday School was organized in the Congregational Church on the 11th day of July, 1869. The following is the list of Superintendents and time of election: S. C. Brown, elected July 11, 1869; re-elected July, 1870. Rev. J. J. Powell, elected August 1, 1871; re-elected July 2, 1872; L. L. Palmer, elected July 14, 1873; Rev. A. F. Hitchcock, elected July, 1874; H. S. Vining, elected May, 1875; Wm. Ferguson, elected March, 1876, and still continues in office. The present



scholarship is about sixty-eight. The Sunday School is ably managed, and there is a considerable interest taken in it by the scholars and teachers.

*M. E. Church:*—This Church organization was effected in the latter part of 1877, by Rev. T. H. Woodward, who served as Pastor till September, 1878. Rev. R. E. Wenk supplies the pulpit at present. The membership at present is not very large, but is increasing. They have no church building of their own; as yet, but have a very acceptable place of worship rented. There is a Sunday School connected with the Church, which was organized December 1, 1878, with L. L. Palmer as Superintendent. The average attendance is thirty-five.

*Catholic Church:*—This was the first church edifice erected in Rio Vista. It was built in 1868. It is in the same parish with the church at Suisun, and the same priest serves at both places. The first priest who officiated here was Rev. Father Auger. He served the church until December, 1872, since which time Rev. Father McNaboe has officiated. The membership is quite large, and the church services well attended. Father McNaboe is an energetic, hard-working man, and is well liked by all his parishioners.

*St. Gertrude's Academy:*—This Academy for young ladies, under the direction of the Sisters of Mercy, is beautifully situated on an eminence in the pleasant and accessible town of Rio Vista. The location is remarkably healthful, the building new and well furnished with all that contributes to the health and comfort of the pupils. The pleasure-grounds are extensive, and well adapted to healthful exercise. Pupils of all persuasions are equally received. The course of instruction embodies all the useful branches of a solid education. The academy building was erected in 1876, by the munificence of Mr. Joseph Bruning, and was formally dedicated by Bishop Alemany on the 10th day of December, 1876. There are nine Sisters engaged in teaching, which constitutes a most efficient corps of teachers. The Academy is justly popular with its patrons, and we are sure the time is not far distant when its sphere will be extended so much that new and larger buildings will be required. We bid it "God speed."

*The Public School:*—The first school building in Rio Vista was erected during the summer of 1862, on the site of the present building, on a lot donated by Joseph Bruning, for that purpose. The first teacher was James U. Chase, who opened the first school during the fall of 1862. We could find no records until the year 1870, hence are unable to give an authentic list of the teachers who have taught, but the following list is tolerably correct: Jas. U. Chase, Byron Hunt, Mr. Burdell, Miss Mary Burns, Mrs. R. Thrush, Miss Sweetland, Miss Stone, Miss Fannie Davis. On the records which begin with 1870 we find the following-named teachers: Anthony Dozier, M. C. Winchester, H. W. Fenton, \*Miss Irene Canright, W. E. Mc

Intyre, Miss V. P. Stevens, \*Miss D. M. Stone, Miss Bertha A. Bicknell, \*Miss Mary S. Warren, L. L. Palmer, \*Miss Mary Linton, \*Miss Jennie Robertson, M. T. Sickal, \*Miss Florence Sickal. In 1871 the school was graded into Grammar and Primary Departments, and those marked with an asterisk (\*) were teachers in the Primary Department. There are at present three grades in the school: Primary Department, Miss Florence Sickal, teacher; Intermediate Department, Miss Jennie Robertson, teacher; Grammar Department, M. T. Sickal, teacher.

The present building was erected in 1875, and is a large, neat-looking structure, being truly an ornament to the town. It is two stories high, with basement. It contains two school-rooms on the first floor, and one school-room and two rooms for library purposes on the second floor. The building is located on a quarter-block 120x120 feet, on the corner of Fifth and Montezuma streets. The location is very good, and is central. The following-named persons comprise the present Board of Trustees: Dr. M. Pietrzycki, Wm. K. Squires and Wm. Ferguson. Dr. M. Pietrzycki is Clerk of the Board.

NEWSPAPERS:—On the 6th day of September, 1877, the *Rio Vista Weekly Gleaner* made its first appearance, being the first paper ever issued in the town. L. L. Palmer was the editor and publisher. The printing was done in Suisun, at the *Solano Republican* office, and conjointly with that paper. On the 22d of September, 1877, the *Rio Vista Enterprise* made its appearance. John H. Whitmore and W. A. Bushnell were proprietors and publishers. They put in a news office, type, press, etc. On the 17th of April, 1878, L. L. Palmer opened an office in Rio Vista, putting in a full line of news and job type, news and job press, etc., in which the *Gleaner* was printed. The *Gleaner* was continued till February 22d, 1879, when it was discontinued, and the publisher became connected with the *Solano Republican* at Suisun. The *Enterprise* continued for three months longer, and issued its last number on May 30th, 1879.

*Business Directory*:—Following is a full and complete business directory of the town on December 31, 1878: Bruning, Jos., warehouse; Brown, B. B., River View Hotel; Bell, P., tinsmith; Christensen, M., wharfinger C. P. R. R.; Carter, R. C., water-works; Clarridge, Geo. A., Western Hotel; Craner, S., merchandise; Craner, A. H., merchandise; Currie, John, harness-maker; Chase, Ed., news-dealer; Davis, C., contractor and planing-mill; Davis, John, contractor and builder; Erlanger & Galinger, merchandise; Fiscus, John B., livery stable; Fraser, George, meat market; Fallman Bros., blacksmiths; Ferguson, Wm., wagon-making, etc.; Gurnee, J., saloon; Hawley, R. H., wharfinger C. T.; Hunter, R. C., drugs and medicine; Hadley, Sam'l T., blacksmith; Halderback, Jos., blacksmith; Ingersoll, J. D., fruit and

vegetables; Johnson and Emigh, warehouse; Kiernan, Thos., undertaker; Kearney, Jas., boot-maker; Kalber, F., wagon-maker; Kelly, J. A., contractor and builder; Lawson, H., saloon; Malone, John A., boot-maker and Manager S. V. Tannery; Matthewson, S. R., vegetables, etc., Merritt, Chas. & Co., drugs and medicines; Miller, Louis, painter and grainer; McGrah, Dan'l, saloon; Nelson, C., saloon; Nielson, S., contractor and builder; Nesbitt, Jos., wharfinger C. S. N. Co.; Ostrander, J. D., soliciting agent; Perry, J. M., merchandise; Pond & Knox, meat market; Peterson, A. H., livery stable; Parker, Miss A. E., millinery, etc.; Pietrzycki, M., physician and surgeon; Palmer, L. L., publisher *Gleaner*; Roberts, G. W., saloon; Runk, Mrs. L. C., Central Hotel; Stanton, J. C., dentist; Squires, W. K., Squire's Hotel; Stumm, F. I., jeweler; Smith, Jas., saloon; Smith, J. E. T., truckman; Stoll, C. M., harness and saddlery; Sorenson, S. P., furniture; Thompson, Geo., saloon; Whitmore & Bushnell, publishers *Enterprise*; Westgate Bros., merchandise; Williamson, Wm., flour mill; Weslar, Geo., barber; Whitman, D. G., plasterer; Wadsworth, Wm., fruits and vegetables; Wilcox, Ruble & Dozier, merchandise.

*Official Directory*:—Notary Public, M. Smyth; Justices of the Peace, J. D. Ingersoll, Lewis Chase; Constable, James Dobbins; Deputy Sheriff, John B. Fiscus; Postmaster, L. C. Ruble; W., F. & Co's agents, Westgate Bros.

*The Future*:—So much for the past and present of the beautiful and thriving town; a word for the future and we will close this sketch. The town is so located that it is sure to be prosperous in the years to come. There are natural advantages which but few towns possess. Cheap transportation is insured, and that is one great factor in the prosperity of a town. The unbounded resources of the tule lands will always pour a goodly stream of gold into its coffers. The hills will always yield a handsome income for the town. They need more industries. There is no reason why this should not become a great manufacturing center. They have every facility possible. The climate is the most salubrious and healthful. The temperature is universally moderate and mild. Strong winds prevail there during the summer months, which serve to keep the atmosphere cool and refreshing.



## SILVEYVILLE.

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*Geography.*—Silveyville township is bounded on the north by Yolo county, on the east by Tremont township, on the south by Maine Prairie and Elmira townships, and on the west by Vacaville township. The Rio Los Putos extends along its northern boundary.

*Topography.*—The surface of the entire township is almost perfectly level. The land is rolling in places, but not hilly. One is reminded very much, in passing through it, of the prairies of Illinois and Iowa.

*Soil.*—The soil of this township is alluvial in formation and character. It is a sandy loam, for the most part, with scarcely any adobe in it. It is very fertile and productive, and the finest farms in Solano county are located here. Everything about these farms betoken thrift and prosperity.

*Climate.*—The climate in this township differs very materially from that in the townships in the southern parts of the county. Here the sea breeze is shorn of its dampness and force, and sweeps as gently over the country as a zephyr. Ordinarily the temperature is several degrees higher here than at Suisun. A person will often find a linen coat burdensome in Dixon at 4 P. M., and after a 40 minutes ride on the train arrives at Suisun, and finds that he needs an overcoat. The wind prevails from the north more here than further south, and this wind is burdened with sultry oppressive heat, and also oftentimes with electricity, which seems to oppress and enervate everything. Fortunately these siroccos are not very common. The atmosphere is comparatively free from malarial poisons, and is, on that account, quite healthful.

*Products.*—The principal products of this township are wheat and barley. Fruits and vegetables do quite well in all parts of the township, though but little more is grown than home consumption demands, except along the line of Rio Los Putos, where are some of the finest orchards and gardens in the State. In this section oranges, figs, dates, olives, lemons and bananas thrive equal to any section of the State, and the quality is said to excel that grown in Los Angeles county.

*Early Settlement.*—To this township belongs the honor of having the first permanent white settler in Solano county. In 1842 Wm. Wolfskill, then a



resident of Los Angeles, secured a grant from the Mexican government for a tract of land one league in width and four leagues in length, lying on either side of Rio Los Putos. Some time during the same year he sent his brother, John R., with a band of cattle to take possession of the new grant, according to law. From this time on, an occasional settler would locate somewhere on the Rio Los Putos, until in 1852 there was quite a neighborhood, with houses, ranging from three to ten miles apart. Upon the outbreak of the gold fever the most practicable road to the mines from San Francisco passed from Benicia to Sacramento, through this settlement. For the accommodation of these travelers, Elijah S. Silvey, in 1852, built a house and stock corral. He at first called his house the "Half-way House". In those early days the trail was not very well defined, and the belated traveler was liable to lose his way and wander about the plains all night. To obviate this, Silvey used to hoist a red lantern high in air every night, so that it might serve as a beacon light to the wanderer, and guide him safely into the haven of Silvey's hotel. The hardy pioneer, Silvey, came to an untimely death by accidentally falling from a porch. His widow still lives on the old site of those early scenes of the early life of California and of Solano county. The next building at this point was a blacksmith shop, built by Messrs. Wm. Dryden & Noble. On Christmas day, 1856, Geo. A. Gillespie began the foundation of a store building. From this time on Silveyville began to assume quite goodly proportions, and reached its zenith about 1865, at which time there were, perhaps, 150 inhabitants in the town. Quite early a post-office was established at this place with E. S. Silvey as post-master. It was called Putah. There was, at one time, a telegraph office there also. But all this is now among the dead past, and another quarter of a century will banish all traces of the town, and only in legend and on these pages will any knowledge of it exist.

The history of Silveyville would remain incomplete without honorable mention being made of a newspaper being published at that place, by Wm. J. Pearce. The type was set and the forms made up in Silveyville, but they were sent to Sacramento to be printed from. The paper was strongly Democratic, and soon after the editor got into a political altercation with one Dr. J. C. Ogburn, a strong Union man, in which Pearce shot the doctor, and was forced to flee the country.

DIXON.—The place to which all the business and houses of Silveyville went was Dixon. In 1868 the C. P. R. R. was completed. Seeing a probability of its completion, and realizing the fact that it was a good point at which to build a town, W. R. Ferguson purchased an acre of land from Thomas Dickson, and built a dwelling-house upon it. This was the first house built in the town. He immediately afterwards erected a stone building. On the 7th day of July, 1868, he opened his store for public

patronage. The next building was erected by Bernard Greinburg. He used it for hotel purposes. It was called the "Empire." Messrs. Eppinger & Co. were the next to engage in a mercantile enterprise in the town. The second family which located in town was that of Jasper Kattenberg. The town was named in honor of Mr. Thomas Dickson, who donated ten acres for the purposes of a depot and town site. The difference in orthography is accounted for in the fact that the first consignment of goods which came to the town were marked "W. R. Ferguson, Dixon." The spelling being simpler it was at once adopted by all. The present population is about 1,200. It was incorporated by a special Act of the Legislature during the session of 1877-8. It is a beautiful town nestled amid a grove of shady trees, which gives it a cosy and cheerful appearance. It is growing, and evidences of prosperity are visible on all sides.

*Free and Accepted Masons.*—Silveyville Lodge, No. 201, F. & A. M., was organized June 25, 1869, at Silveyville. It was moved to Dixon September 12, 1871. The following named gentlemen were its charter members: James W. Howard, Wm. H. Wells, H. E. McCune, John P. Kirsch, Walter Ellis, Wm. Killibrew, B. Meyer, Henry Goeffort, J. S. Garnett, Chas. Wolf, C. M. Robinson, Daniel King. The following gentlemen have been honored with the office of W. M., J. W. Howard, W. H. Wells, Jas. A. Ellis, A. Hockheimer, John Sweeney. The present membership is 65.

*Royal Arch Chapter.*—Dixon Chapter, No. 48, R. A. M., was organized February 9, 1875. The charter members were as follows: J. A. Ellis, A. Hockheimer, A. G. Summers, B. Ethiger, H. Eppinger, J. C. Merryfield, H. Wilcox, H. Goeffort, H. E. McCune, John Sweeney, Geo. C. McKinley, M. Blum, Wm. Steele, D. Longmire, A. Fraser, J. C. North, J. P. Kirsch, E. M. Tyler, J. W. Sallee. The following gentlemen have been elevated to the dignity of High Priest: Jas. A. Ellis, John Sweeney, H. Eppinger, George C. McKinley. The present membership is 51.

*Rebecca Degree Lodge.*—Hyacinthe Rebecca Degree Lodge, No. 26, was organized May 26, 1875. The present officers are Jas. K. Vansant, N. G.; Mrs. Sarah McPherson, V. G.; Edward Weihe, R. C.; and Mrs. Nancy Vansant, Treasurer. The present membership is 70.

*I. O. O. F.*—Montezuma Lodge, No. 172, I. O. O. F., was organized June 20, 1870. The following named gentlemen comprise its charter members: R. S. McKinley, D. Mack, J. D. Carey, Wm. M. Bernard, Geo. W. Smith, Thomas Kelley, James M. Clark, John Patterson, T. A. Buckles and R. E. Hewitt. The following named gentlemen have had the honor of presiding as N. G.'s: Wm. Bernard, T. A. Buckles, R. E. Hewitt, J. Kline, A. Kirby,

R. R. Neirell, J. Fredrickson, V. A. Collins, P. Siebe, I. Rhodes, J. K. Vansant, W. H. Northcutt, Charles Schirmer, R. C. Christian, A. J. Kasten, Edward Weihe. The present membership is 100.

*Knights of Pythias.*—Othello Lodge, No. 31, K. of P., was organized June 29, 1875. The following named gentlemen were charter members: E. L. H. Bibby, J. B. Bloom, S. Blum, J. R. Creighton, John Ferguson, John Fredrickson, H. Goeffort, R. D. Hopkins, D. B. Huff, Wm. Johnson, Wm. Johnson, C. W. Johnson, J. O. Johnson, J. D. Johnson, A. Levy, S. G. Little, J. P. Martin, C. J. McCoy, E. Wenfelder, H. A. Ross, E. W. Striplin, Dr. A. H. Pratt, Chas. Schirmer, F. A. Schnitzlein, P. Siebe, Wm. Simms, Wm. Straub, J. Sweeney and H. West. The following gentlemen have been honored with the office of Chancellor: R. D. Hopkins, John R. Creighton, H. A. Ross, Dr. A. H. Pratt, J. F. Hamilton, S. G. Little and P. Olmstead. The present membership is about 40.

*Independent Order of Good Templars.*—Dixon Lodge, I. O. G. T., was organized February 5th, 1870. Following are the charter members: Mrs. Julia A. Ferguson, J. R. Beane, E. H. Beane, J. C. Graves, Thomas Pritchard, C. M. Daffield, J. Sullivan, Mrs. A. F. Beane, Mrs. M. Bernard, G. S. Dudley, Mrs. E. Dudley, H. McGale, Thomas Doody, L. A. Moore and J. F. Cook. The following members have held the office of Worthy Chief Templar: J. R. Beane, Mrs. F. A. Beane, J. M. Dudley, Joseph Kline, H. Everingham, J. H. Peters, W. B. Wyman, Rev. George Morris, W. H. Northcutt, A. R. Storey, M. T. Sickal, J. K. Bateman, W. T. Mayne, Wm. Olmstead, Miss Ella Hoovey, George Martin, and Stewart McBride.

*Ancient Order of United Workmen.*—Dixon Lodge, No. 50, A. O. U. W., was organized September 11th, 1878. The present officers are: A. J. Kasten, M. W., A. J. Buckles, P. M. W., Charles Donahoe, G. F., Charles Schrivner, O. B. Ethiger, Receiver, J. M. Dinsmore, Financier, A. R. Storey, Recorder. The present membership is 27.

*Bank of Dixon.*—The Bank of Dixon was organized and incorporated in October, 1873, but was not opened for business until April, 1874. The authorized capital stock is \$500,000. The original board of directors was as follows: J. S. Garnett, S. G. Little, James Millar, Ed. Wolfskill, Hanse Rohwer, James Porter and D. B. Huff. The presidents of the bank have been, S. G. Little, James Millar, J. C. Merryfield. The cashiers have been, Ed. Wolfskill, H. B. Sheldon, G. W. Wyman, A. J. Kasten and Robert Harkinson.

*The Dixon Fire Company.*—This company was organized October 15th, 1872. Their present apparatus consists of one Babcock engine, hooks, lad-

ders, and other appliances necessary to make them a very efficient department. The following gentlemen have acted as foreman: J. Fredrickson, W. A. Dashiel, E. Weihe, H. Eppinger, W. S. Hinman, George King, Owen O'Niel, George Frahm.

**CATHOLIC CHURCH:**—This church building was erected in 1868, by Rev. Father Auger. It is located on Second street, between A and Mayes streets. It is a frame building, 48x32, with a seating capacity of 140. From floor to ceiling is 16 feet. The ceiling is hard-finished, walls wainscoted, and finished with redwood tongued grooved and painted. The pastors who have served this church are, Rev. Fathers Auger, McNaboe, Powers, Moore, Ward and Nugent.

*The Methodist Episcopal Church, South:*—Was organized in Solano County, in the town of Suisun and vicinity, in the year 1852 or 1853. Afterward a society was formed near the present site of Vacaville. This was called the Vacaville circuit.

A neat and substantial stone church was built at Rockville in 1858.

In 1861 the M. E. C. South built a college known as Pacific Methodist College, at Vacaville. Its first president was Rev. J. C. Stewart. After the first year Rev. W. T. Luckey, D. D., was elected president, which position he held for eight years.

Rev. J. R. Thomas, D. D., LL. D., was the next president. In 1871 this college was removed to Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, where it is now located.

Three years ago a beautiful church building was erected at Elmira. The church at Vacaville was destroyed by fire in 1877, where it was rebuilt a few months thereafter.

In the Fall of 1878 a church was purchased in Dixon, and a minister was sent by the conference to fill the pulpit. There are at present three ministers actively engaged in the work, residing in the county. Rev. J. C. Simmons presides at the present time.

*M. E. Church—Dixon and Binghamton.*—In the month of March, 1858, a few persons living in and around old Silveyville desiring to worship God according to Methodistic belief and forms, organized themselves under the direction of Rev. J. W. Leach into a methodist class, which numbered twelve persons, viz.: J. W. Leach, preacher in charge; John A. Leach, Marian Leach, Ellen Proxil, Emily West, Charles West, Charles K. Seeley, Solena Seeley, John J. Reed, Joseph Reed, E. B. Reed and Wm. Reed. At the close of the year, these twelve had increased to upwards of thirty souls. They held their meetings in a school house about one mile and a quarter north of Silveyville. This was the rise of methodism in this place and its increase



for the first year. From 1859 to 1863, the society was without any regularly appointed minister, and it was with difficulty it maintained its existence; only two persons, namely, Charles and Emily West are left from the original twelve; during this period of struggling without a pastor. They worshipped in a hall over a saloon in Silveyville and were strengthened from time to time by the labors of Rev. Father White and Rev. Henry Howlit.

In 1863, J. W. Murphy was appointed to the work. He found the small band badly scattered, but, by indifatigable effort, made quite an increase in the society. He was a man of robust constitution, fiery disposition, radical in views, plain spoken—a man for the times. He was succeeded in 1865 by Rev. A. P. Hendon, who was regularly appointed to the work. A. P. Hendon reorganized, gathered in others of like faith and entered upon the field with renewed vigor. The result was success; methodism became a settled fact in this place during his pastorate. In 1866, under his management, a fine church edifice was erected in Silveyville, at a cost of four thousand three hundred dollars. A. P. Hendon was a young man of rare qualities, tall, slim and gaunt, rather eccentric, positive and thoroughly devoted to his work. He was followed by Dr. Morrow, who, by his personal character and pastoral qualifications, endeared himself to the hearts of all. The work under him, flourished and, at the close of his two years' labor, there were ninety-eight persons connected with the church. The following year the circuit was divided, W. S. Corwin was stationed at Silveyville and S. L. Hamilton appointed to Binghamton; little is known of the growth or struggles of the society this year, save that there was some increase in the work. Geo. Larkin succeeded W. S. Corwin in 1869. Bro. Larkin, owing to difficulties that arose in the church, did not finish the year. S. L. Hamilton, of Binghamton, filled the pulpit of Silveyville the last part of the year. In 1870, Bro. G. R. Belknap was appointed to Silveyville and I. B. Fish to Binghamton. The M. E. Church was moved by Bro. Belknap from Silveyville to Dixon, a flourishing town on the Central Pacific Railroad, three miles southeast of Silveyville, where it now stands. In 1871, the two parts of the work that had been divided were again united, and J. M. Hinmin was appointed to take charge. He labored for one year and left only forty-six on the entire work in full fellowship. He was succeeded by J. H. Peters in 1872. There was an increase during this year of twenty-nine. J. H. Peters remained on the work for three years, doing faithful service and building up the society in all its departments, at the close of his pastorate he reports seventy-seven members in full connection. Arnold was appointed his successor in September, 1875. Bro. Arnold, on account of ill health, retired before the close of the year and S. Snidery sent to complete the year. W. T. Mayne was placed over the circuit in 1876, and built an addition to the parsonage with \$1,000. The work proving too hard for him, at the close of the year the circuit was again divided and T. H. Woodward

was appointed to Binghamton in connection with Rio Vista; during this year the M. E. Church South was organized out of the M. E. Church, Dixon, which drew heavily upon the original society. The following year the two fractions of the work were again united and T. H. Woodward was appointed to take charge of the entire field. The work looked discouraging, but a sweeping revival broke out during this year, Rev. J. W. Ross was present holding meetings day and night for three weeks; again the society sprang to its feet and persons were added daily to the church. The society at the present numbers about 100, and owns about seven thousand dollars worth of property in Dixon. Sabbath school was organized in 1863 and now numbers about seventy. Alex. McPherson is the present Superintendent; Trustees: Judge Merryfield, J. M. Dudley, N. Eams, E. L. Mann, J. M. Bell, D. S. Stuart and W. R. Ferguerson.

*Dixon Baptist Church.*—This church was organized at Pleasant Retreat school house, Vaca Valley, Solano county, October 19, 1856. Its constituent members were: Rev. Daniel King, Rev. Joseph Roberts, William G. Fore, Thomas C. Maupin, H. E. McCune, Lewis Huchinson, Sidney C. Walker, Mrs. E. Roberts, Mrs. Susan King, Mrs. H. M. Fore, Mrs. A. R. Maupin, Mrs. M. J. Walker, Mrs. Sarah J. Williams, Mrs. Barbara B. McCune. Rev. J. Roberts preached a sermon from I Peter, 2, 4, 5. "*To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God and precious. Ye also as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*" The text seemed a truly prophetic one, and, together with the earnest sermon, was attended by the Divine blessing to the little band of humble believers, which, like a river of life, clear as crystal, has never ceased to flow. The church had the ministerial labors of Revs. Roberts and King, until June, 1857, when the latter was chosen pastor, in which relation he was held with much love and esteem until the time of his death, which occurred at Dixon, October 3, 1877. This venerable servant of God was thus the leader of this church for more than twenty years, and was an example to them in faith, in perseverance, in well-doing, in sacrificing for Christ and his cause. In the organization Lewis Huchinson was chosen Secretary and Sidney Walker Deacon.

The school house was used as a meeting house until January, 1860, when the Hall of the Academy in Vacaville, the property of Rev. Mr. Anderson, was obtained as a meeting place for one Saturday and Sunday in each month, for the sum of fifty dollars per year. The church held its meetings there until March 1861, then moved to the Dry Slough school house, which then stood near the present Batavia. In this place, regular monthly meetings were held. At the meeting of the church, held April, 1861, a report of a committee, consisting of H. E. McCune and T. S. Bayley, of the Baptist Church, and Rev. Mr. Fairbairn and Mr. G. B. Stevenson, Esq., of the Presbyterian

Church, O. S., together with one outside party, whose name we do not find, submitted a report, consisting of a written agreement to build a meeting house at Silveyville, to be owned and used jointly by the two denominations. This report was adopted by both churches, and work of building went on. This house was dedicated on the third Sunday in November, 1861, Rev. Dr. Peck, of the Presbyterian Church, and Rev. D. King, of the Baptist Church, officiating. These denominations held this property in partnership, with great harmony, until May, 1868, when the Baptists bought the half interest of the Presbyterians, and became sole proprietors of the property. This was the home of the Baptist Church, where their labors were greatly blessed, until October, 1876, when the church dedicated its brick building at the town of Dixon, where it still holds its meetings.

The Rev. Daniel King, being much of the time of his long pastorate of this church enfeebled by sickness, and more latterly by age, the church, by his request, employed the following ministers as assistants to the pastor: In January, 1860, Rev. Orin Critenden was employed, who served with great zeal and efficiency until April, 1863. Then the Rev. J. E. Barnes was employed for one-half of his time, until May, 1868, and then they employed all his time, until January 8th, 1871. From then until June 1st, 1872, Rev. D. King labored alone as pulpit supply, and then Rev. John T. Prior, of Georgia, was called as an assistant to the pastor, and continued for one year. In November, 1872, Rev. J. L. Blich began to preach to the church as an assistant to the pastor, and continued as such until the death of Rev. D. King, which, as above stated, was October 3d, 1877. Then he was chosen pastor of the church, and continued to serve as such until July, 1878. The church then, through their committee on pulpit supply, engaged the services of Rev. O. C. Wheeler, Rev. C. A. Bateman, Rev. C. C. Bateman, Rev. C. A. Buckbee, Rev. John Frances, Rev. C. W. Hughes and Rev. James E. Barnes. The last named began to supply the pulpit on September 7th, 1878, and has continued to do so, and is still doing so at the present writing.

Including the constituent members, this church has had connected with it 249 members, and now has a membership of 106. They have a church property worth about \$12,000.

NEWSPAPERS—*Dixon Tribune*:—The "Tribune" made its appearance at Dixon on the 14th day of November, 1874. R. D. Hopkins editor, and R. D. Hopkins & Co. publishers. About one year after it was started Hopkins became sole proprietor, and continued its publication until April 1, 1877, when it went under the present management of Alfred B. Nye. The "Tribune" was started as a neutral paper in politics. In 1875 it was Democratic. Under the management of Mr. Nye the paper is independent and non-partisan. Size, 24x36 inches. It is a weekly, and has a circulation of about 600 copies.



## SUISUN.

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Suisun Township is bounded on the north by those of Elmira, Vacaville and Napa county; on the west by the townships of Green Valley and Benicia; on the south by Suisun bay, and on the east by Montezuma, Denverton, and Maine Prairie townships. It is the largest in the county, and was originally one of the two first divisions into which Solano was partitioned. Included in it are the following islands, which form a portion of the delta of the Sacramento river, which debouches into the bay above named: Joice, Grisley, Hammond, Wheeler, Gray, Rich, Long Point, Rowe, Chips, and two smaller ones not named. The present limits of the township were settled on June 27, 1866, and took its name from the Suisun Indians, who were the lords of the soil when the settlement of the district was commenced. Suisun has an area of 110,000 acres, 10,000 of which are water, its general characteristics being a large level plain of some six miles square in extent, which opens out on the east into the vast valley of the Sacramento. The Potrero hills occupy about twelve sections of this expanse, and are surrounded on either side by swamp and overflowed lands, except a narrow neck of low valley on the north side. The higher ridges are two hundred feet in height, and recede in elevation as they approach the border of level land adjoining the tule swamps. It is also well watered, the principal stream within its limits being the Suisun creek, which has its rise in the adjoining county of Napa, thence flowing in a south-easterly direction, empties into the Salt marsh, nearly a mile and a half east of Bridgeport. Its springs, marble and other quarries are also famous; it will, however, be unnecessary here to dwell upon them, as an exhaustive description thereof will be found on page 91 and the following of this work.

*Early Settlement.*—As has been previously remarked, the Suisun Indians were the original occupiers of this fertile domain, while Rockville, a small town at the foot of the valley would appear to have been their headquarters; at any rate, in 1850, they moved their *lares et penates* from there to Napa county. It has been shown in our chapter on Mexican grants that in January, 1837, Francisco Solano, the chief of this tribe, applied for a grant of the land which he claimed belonged to him by right of primogeniture, which was finally made to him in January, 1842. The application of Solano was, in 1839, followed by one from Jose Francisco Armijo, a Mexican by birth, requesting that the lands known as Tolenas should be





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ceded to him, which was done in March, 1840. It was subsequently decreed by the Supreme Court of California that owing to the non-approval of the Departmental Assembly of the cessions, the grants were informal: therefore, in 1849, the title to the land held by Solano was acquired by General Vallejo by purchase, while that of Armijo, upon the death of the elder, by his son Antonio, in the same manner. In 1846, we hear of one Jesus Molino, an Indian, having certain ground under cultivation at or near Rockville, while in the spring of 1847 Daniel M. Berry with his family settled in the valley and pitched his tent on land now farmed by Joseph Blake. He was in the spring of 1849 followed by Landy Alford, who located on the site of the farm of Lewis Pierce, and Nathan Barbour, who had crossed the plains with him, but had gone to Sonoma and thence to Benicia, but so few were the people that in 1847, when Captain Von Pfister made his journey to Sacramento, then Sutter's Fort, there were only three houses within what was then Suisun township, namely, the adobes of Molino at Rockville, Berry's residence and the Armijo rancho. In December, 1850, there also came to the valley J. H. Bauman, a German, who camped on arrival at or near the farm now owned by Mr. Bucher, afterwards moving to various places as a sheep herder until 1853, when he settled in the Montezuma hills. He is now a resident of this valley. In this year Robert Waterman, an old sea-captain, of thirty years' standing, also arrived from New York City. He now occupies a beautiful farm a few miles to the northwest of Fairfield. In 1851, E. F. Gillespie (deceased), a native of Watertown, N. Y., came to the upper end of the valley. There also permanently located in this year on what was called the *Island*, now the site of Suisun City, Captain Josiah Wing, who had during the previous summer commenced running boats up the creek to the embarcadero. In October, 1851, there also arrived James G. Edwards who settled on the farm of John McMullen. Colonel D. D. Reeves came to the township on November 14, 1852, and built a blacksmith shop on the farm occupied by Mr. Ledgewood, where he worked at his trade until 1857, when he moved into Suisun city, and in conjunction with his brother Co P. Reeves, erected some of the largest and most substantial brick buildings in the town. In this year there arrived also J. B. Lemon, the present County Treasurer, and Allen C. Miller, and last, though by no means least among the early settlers who had helped to subdue this valley to fertile grain fields, establish manufactories and well conducted business enterprises, are the names of John M. Jones, Under Sheriff, who settled in 1853, Asa Crocker, in 1854, John W. Pearce, in 1856, D. E. and D. M. Stockman, the former in 1856 and the latter arriving in 1858, when there also located J. Frank and Moses Dinkelspiel. In 1857 there came William J. Costigan. In 1860 R. D. Robbins arrived; P. J. Christler in 1862, while among the first settlers were J. B. Hoyt and E. P. Hilborn; we have been, however, unable to glean the precise date of their arrival.

**SUISUN CITY.**—This city stands on an island in the midst of the tule lands which form a marshy desert lying between the Potrero hills and Benicia. As far back as the year 1850, Curtis Wilson and Dr. John Baker sailed up the Suisun creek in an open boat, and landed on the present site of the city. To them is due the honor of its discovery. They did not, however, remain long enough to give them the rights of residents of the place, but it is supposed left in search of places bearing a more captivating impress. Mention has been made of Captain Josiah Wing having been engaged in the running of schooners, or other craft, to this island in the summer of 1850 and of his settlement on it in 1851. In this year he built the first building erected on the present site of the city, it being a warehouse, on the place now occupied by the livery-stables of George W. Hall, on the east side of the Plaza, situated opposite the Post-office. In the summer of this year the first store was opened by John W. Owens and A. W. Hall, while in the following years others came and commenced building up the city of Suisun. In the year 1868 a petition signed by the residents of the now flourishing country town was handed to the Board of Supervisors of the county, requesting that steps might be taken whereby Suisun should receive the rights and privileges of a city, which prayer was granted on October 9th of that year, when she developed into an incorporated city.

Suisun, as it is to-day, is a flourishing little town of about 1,800 inhabitants. Its streets are, as a rule, well filled with people, while its stores, of which there are some very handsome ones, appear to have a fair share of business. It is connected with Fairfield, the county seat, by a plank walk of nearly a mile in length, there being situated half way between the rival towns the California Pacific Railroad depot, under the charge of J. C. Maxwell.

**FAIRFIELD.**—This little town is the county seat of Solano, it having attained to that proud distinction by a vote of the people canvassed on September 2, 1858, when it was declared to be the choice of the voters by a majority of 404 over Benicia. This selection of Fairfield was made, in the first place, on account of its central position, and secondly on account of the gift to the county by Captain R. H. Waterman of certain lands, should the county seat be legally located there. The town site was surveyed by Capt. Waterman and A. E. Ritchie, and the plat filed for record on May 16, 1859, and the new County Capital named in honor of the birthplace of the Captain in Connecticut. The first residence erected on it was that of J. B. Lemon, the premises being those now occupied by him. Fairfield is a pretty little town of considerable promise, and possessing, as it does, the county buildings, there is considerable bustle to be observed during the sessions of the different Courts. Its houses, for the most part, are enclosed by neat fences and well kept gardens, vineyards and orchards, while the streets are wide, though not much worn by traffic.



*Court House and Jail.*—On September 13, 1858, the Board of Supervisors met and canvassed the votes of the general election for that year, and, among other things, it was declared that Fairfield had been selected as the county seat, and also a new Board of Supervisors were elected, viz: J. G. Gardner, D. B. Holman, and E. F. Gillespie. The new Board met and organized on the 2nd day of November following.

The county records having been moved from Benicia, and a temporary Court House built and certain buildings rented from Waterman and Williamson, for the temporary use of the county officers, on November 18, 1858, the following order was entered in the minutes of the Board: "Ordered by the Board of Supervisors that specifications of a plan for the Court House and jail, for Solano county, be advertised for in the *Solano County Herald* for the term of two weeks, and that the amount of fifty dollars be allowed to the architect whose plans shall be received and approved by the Board. Said specifications to be handed in on or before the 5th day of December, A. D. 1858. Said jail to be 35 feet square; the Court House to be 40x50 feet, to contain rooms for the county officers and jury rooms."

On January 21, 1859, the Board of Supervisors passed an order requesting "our Senator and Assemblyman" to pass an act authorizing the Board of Supervisors to levy a special tax, for the term of two years, of fifty cents upon each one hundred dollars, upon the assessed value of property of said county, for county purposes; for the purpose of building Court House and jail for said county. On the following day the plans and specifications, submitted by James H. White for a Court House and jail for Solano county, were accepted and approved.

On February 9, 1859, the vote adopting the plans and specifications submitted by James H. White was reconsidered, and the plans and specifications submitted by George Bordwell were accepted and adopted February 10, 1859. Ordered that sealed proposals be received for building the Court House and jail, according to the plans and specifications of George Bordwell, adopted by the Board, up to the 14th day of March, 1859, and that the same be advertised by the Clerk in the *Solano County Herald* for thirty days; and it is further ordered that George Bordwell be appointed architect to superintend the erection of said buildings. March 14, 1859, they met to open the proposals received, and award the contract for building the proposed Court House and jail. Bids were received as follows: From William B. Carr, \$28,400; A. Barrows, \$38,500; George W. Cord, \$28,200; E. M. Benjamin and N. Smith, \$27,200; C. Murphy, T. Collins, and J. J. Doyle, \$31,200; Samuel T. Carlisle, \$37,745; J. J. Denny, \$31,000; John B. Sanford, \$27,350; William McCarty, \$29,500; Charles B. Tool, \$34,300; Larkin Richardson, \$24,440. The bid of Larkin Richardson being the lowest, the contract was duly awarded to him, upon his filing a bond in the sum of

\$48,880, being twice the amount of his bid, the conditions being that the buildings were to be completed according to the plans and specifications—the jail by September 1, 1859, and the Court House by September 1, 1860. Subsequently an order was made that the Court House should be built on Union Square so as to front on Union street, and to run 40 feet back to the centre of the square east and west, and that the jail be located on a line with the Court House, eastward, half way of the block; and it was further ordered that the County Surveyor run the necessary lines.

And it was also ordered that the architect superintending should be allowed seven per cent upon the contract price (\$24,440) for his services. The percentage was afterwards changed to eight per cent.

It appears that an Act was passed by the Legislature in accordance with the request of the Board of Supervisors, for on April 11, 1859, the Board ordered that a tax of fifty cents, upon each hundred dollars of the taxable property of the county, be levied and assessed for the building of the Court House and jail, in pursuance of the provisions of an Act of the Legislature.

On September 1, 1859, the following appears on the minutes of the Board: "Whereas, the contract for building a county jail and Court House was awarded to Larkin Richardson, and the time for the delivery of the same, completed, has arrived; be it, therefore, resolved, that the said Richardson be and he is hereby required to deliver to the county the said jail, finished according to his contract, and upon his failing to do so, to be held responsible for all damages; and that he be furnished with a copy of this resolution."

November 10, 1859, the following order is entered upon the minutes: "Ordered that the public building known as the jail in Fairfield be now received from the contractor, Larkin Richardson; the Board reserving the right to claim damages, and Richardson reserving the right to subsequently present his bill for extra work."

And it was, thereupon, ordered that the prisoners (which had heretofore been confined in the jail of Contra Costa county) be removed to the Fairfield jail.

On March 12, 1860, the contract was let to A. P. Jackson to fit up the court room and offices in the new Court House for the sum of \$1,994. Jackson's contract was subsequently cancelled, and on April 21, 1860, a new contract, for fitting up the rooms, was entered into with J. W. Batcheller, at the sum of \$1,963.

On April 21, 1860, the following order was entered: "Ordered by the Board of Supervisors of Solano county, that the public buildings of said county, known as the Court House and jail, in Fairfield, be and the same are hereby received from the contractor, Larkin Richardson. The said Richardson hereby giving up and releasing all claims and demands against the said Board of Supervisors on account of said buildings; the said Board

having made the said Richardson an allowance in full amount due on the original contract, and for all extra work done on said buildings."

On the completion of Batcheller's contract, shortly after, an order was made for the county officers and courts to remove from the temporary buildings used into the new Court House, which was at once complied with, and these buildings are in use at the present date.

The old frame Court House, used temporarily, was, a few years after the completion of the new building, removed to the present Court House block and placed on the west side of the Court House, about the same distance from it as the jail is upon the east.

*The Hall of Records.*—At the session of the Legislature of 1877–8, an Act was passed authorizing the Board of Supervisors of Solano county to issue \$15,000 of bonds, bearing seven per cent. per annum interest, to create a fund to be called "The Court-House Improvement Fund," and also to levy an annual tax for their redemption, for the purpose of erecting a fire-proof addition to the Court House for the safe preservation of the records of the County Clerk's and County Recorder's offices. In 1878, these bonds were prepared and, after advertising for proposals to purchase them, were sold to Sutro & Co., Bankers of San Francisco, for \$15,356. The board then proceeded to build the desired edifice, plans and specifications were prepared by George Bordwell (the former architect of the Court House) which were approved and accepted and proposals were immediately invited for the erection of said fire-proof building. A large number of bids were received and, at the opening thereof by the board, the contract was awarded to Richard and John McCann, of San Francisco, for the erection of said building according to the plans and specifications, at the sum of \$11,597. The building is located twenty feet from the Court House on the west side; and is sixty feet long by thirty feet in width, and two stories in height, and is fire-proof in all particulars, connecting with the Court House by an iron bridge, crossing in the second story. The contract was let in July, 1878, and it was completed in November of that year; the furnishing contract was let to John B. Luksinger & Co., of San Francisco, for \$2,000; and after all the extra work done by both contractors was paid for and certain other extra articles furnished—the whole outlay amounted to the sum of \$15,400.

This building has the Recorder's office on the first floor, with an excellent fire-proof vault for the records in the rear of the front office, and the County Clerk's office in front on the second floor, with the Supervisor's room in the rear—being one of the best arranged and satisfactory buildings of the kind to be found anywhere in the agricultural counties of the State.



*M. E. Church—Fairfield.*—The first methodist sermon preached in Suisun Valley was at the house of D. M. Berry, in November, 1849, by Rev. Isaac Owens. Rev. S. D. Simonds was the first regularly appointed circuit preacher and his jurisdiction embracing "all north of the bay." He was appointed February 1, 1851. Rev. M. C. Briggs had preached occasionally prior to this. The first class or society was organized by S. D. Simonds, in the Spring of 1851, the following were members: Jas. Dorland and his wife, Benjamin Davisson, Jasper S. Sheldon and Charlotte Berry. The first Sunday school was organized the last of March, 1851, at D. M. Berry's by S. D. Simonds. S. D. Simonds was succeeded in August, 1851, by Jas. Corwin; he traversed the same territory until February, 1853. The headquarters of this extensive circuit was at Sonoma. In February, 1853, E. A. Hazen was appointed to Suisun and Napa circuit; he remained until May, 1855; during this time a small church was built about three miles west of Suisun, which was known for years as the "Valley Church." In May, 1855, Jas. Corwin and Colin Anderson were appointed to the circuit as colleagues. In September, 1857, Jas. Hunter was appointed and the Suisun circuit established. He remained until September, 1859; during the year 1858, lots were secured in the then newly laid out town of Fairfield, and about the same time the present parsonage was erected. In September, 1859, Rev. J. W. Hines was appointed; he remained two years, until September, 1861; during the first year of his pastorate the construction of the present brick church in Fairfield was commenced, but remained unfinished until the next year; it was then completed and dedicated in the Summer of 1861. Its total cost was about \$8,000. In September, 1861, Jas. Corwin was appointed pastor. In September, 1862, H. J. Bland was appointed. In September, 1863, W. S. Urmey. He remained until September, 1865; during this time the debt on the brick church was paid and it has since remained free of debt; during this period the Valley Church was sold and, after removal, was converted into the present school house in Gomer District. The subsequent pastors have been as follows: September, 1865, W. S. Corwin; September, 1866, John Daniel; September, 1867, W. S. Turner; August, 1869, R. W. Williamson; September, 1870, O. S. Frambies; August, 1871, A. R. Sheriff; September, 1872, J. M. Hinman; September, 1874, E. E. Dodge; September, 1875, G. D. Pinneo; September, 1877, M. D. Buck; September, 1878, R. E. Wenk, present incumbent. During these years the church has had fluctuating prosperity. The present membership is thirty. A Sunday school has been maintained throughout the whole history of the church; the present number is sixty; Superintendent, R. E. Wenk.

*Grace Church, Suisun—Episcopal.*—What is now known as Grace Church was the first place of worship erected in Suisun, being built A. D. 1857, under the auspices of the "Old School Presbyterians." Captain



Richie of Fairfield offered a lot in that town ; but the people of Suisun offered to give the land and put up the building. Their proposition was accepted, and Mr. Joseph Merrill received the contract for building the Church. Mr. Reubin Pringle gave the lot. The Rev. Mr. Wood was the first minister in charge. He was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Fairburn, who only remained a short time, as the zeal of the people had weakened, and he was not supported. The church remained without a pastor for some time, and in the year 1861 it was sold to the Methodists. The first minister of this denomination was the Rev. Mr. Baily. He was succeeded by the following named ministers : Rev. W. B. Gober ; Rev. O. P. Fitzgerald ; Rev. Samuel Brown ; Rev. O. Fisher ; Rev. A. P. Anderson ; Rev. T. E. Barton ; Rev. Samuel Brown ; Rev. T. H. B. Anderson ; Rev. Samuel Brown ; Rev. W. F. Compton. The first Episcopal service was held April 28th, 1867, by the Rev. Henry G. Perry, at that time rector of St. Paul's Church, Benicia. These services were continued by the same clergyman, at intervals, until August 25th, of the same year, when he resigned the mission to the Bishop of California. The parish was organized July 28th, and the Bishop made his first visitation in company with the Rev. Mr. Perry, August 25, 1867. From this time until 1872 the following clergymen held service at this place : Rev. Messrs. Smith, Gray, Breck, Cowan, Powell, Brotherton and Kelly. In the winter of 1872 the church was purchased by the Episcopalians, and the Rev. Geo. R. Davis was called from Nebraska, and assumed the rectorship of the parish, March 10. Before the year closed he accepted a call to Marysville, and the parish was again vacant. On the sixth Sunday after Trinity, 1873, the Rev. T. E. Dickey took charge of the parish, and on the 28th of September, 1874, he resigned his rectorship, and accepted a call to Silver City, Idaho. The Rev. Giles Easton held services in this church from August, 1875, to May, 1878. The present rector, Rev. E. C. Cowan, assumed his duties on the 1st of August, 1878.

*St. Alphonsis, Catholic* :—Was established about the year 1860, Father Dyeart officiating. He was followed by Fathers Ougar and McNaboe, the latter being still in charge. The construction of the present church edifice was begun in 1868, and a debt of \$6,000 incurred by its building, which has been entirely liquidated under the able management of Father McNaboe. This year (1879) they are building an addition. The membership of this church is about three hundred.

The above history is taken from the county atlas, as no other could be obtained, notwithstanding repeated efforts to get it—indeed such has been the case with the churches of the Catholic persuasion throughout the county.

*The Congregational Church, Suisun* :—Preliminary steps were taken at a meeting held at the residence of E. P. Hilborn, on October 30, 1876, J. W.

Warren, D. D., presiding, for the purpose of organizing a congregation to worship under the Congregational form of religion, at Suisun, when a committee was selected, who appointed to meet on the 5th of November following, to take into consideration the formation of a permanent organization of that body. Success would appear to have attended their efforts, for we find the 22d day of December of the same year set apart for the holding of appropriate inaugural services, the following churches being represented by their pastors: First Congregational Church of San Francisco; Plymouth Congregational Church of San Francisco; First Congregational Church, Oakland; Congregational Church, South Vallejo; Congregational Church, Dixon; Congregational Church, Sacramento; with J. H. Warren, D. D., Superintendent of American Home Missions. The sermon was preached by J. E. Dwinelle. The first membership numbered seventeen, who were under the pastorate of the Rev. J. W. Brier, Jr. All the services of this church have been held in an edifice erected by the people of Suisun, on Morgan street. In July, 1878, Mr. Brier resigned, when he was succeeded by the Rev. A. F. Hitchcock, the present incumbent. Not the least interesting record in connection with this church is its admirable Sunday School, the classes of which give frequent exhibitions, each of them being attended with more than ordinary success. The first superintendent of the school was C. W. Childs, the present holder of the position being A. C. Wood. The church membership is about twenty-seven, while the number of school children is sixty.

*Suisun Lodge, No. 55, F. and A. M.*:—This lodge was chartered by the Grand Lodge on May 4, 1855, the chartered members being J. H. Griggs, Miles Dean, W. B. Brown, C. Manka, S. Maupin, P. O. Clayton, Charles Maul, Sampson Smith, Jacob Cutter, Philip Palmer, D. D. Reeves, John W. Owen, M. A. Long, A. P. Jackson and G. W. Hays. The lodge was instituted in the Armijo adobe, in Suisun Valley, and held a number of its meetings there during the year 1855. Shortly after, however, a move was made by the brethren to erect a lodge building, and the result was that in the Fall of 1855 a neat wooden structure, two stories in height, was erected at what was then known as Barton's Store, in Suisun Valley. The lower story of the building erected was used as a school-room, and the upper story was used by the craft. In 1856 the town of Suisun began to assume some importance, and the brethren, after considerable parleying, decided to move the lodge to Suisun, and just at that time Bro. Hiram Rush began the erection of a large brick store-room in Suisun, and the brethren bargained with him to add a third story to his building for a lodge-room for the Order. This he did, the lodge paying all the expenses of the third story, and on its completion Bro. Rush deeded it, the property, with a right of way of ingress and egress. For about twenty-three years the lodge has occupied its present

hall, and which is to-day one of the most comfortable and suitable Masonic halls in Solano County. The lodge has prospered from the first, and at the present time numbers about seventy-five members. The present officers are: W. G. Davisson, W. M.; J. Frank, S. W.; William Leithead, J. W.; Co. P. Reeves, Treasurer; George A. Gillespie, Secretary; J. B. Richardson, S. D.; John A. Lockie, J. D.; N. Anderson, Tyler.

*Swisun Lodge, No. 78, I. O. O. F.*—Was organized September 13, 1858, by C. W. Hayden, D. D. G. Master District No. 15, with John Doughty, D. M. Stockman, J. M. Duncan, A. E. Charles and J. Frank as charter members. On the night of its institution W. H. Stephens and W. Farmer became members by deposit of card, and T. J. Owen, M. Meehan, M. Dinkelspiel, Albert Knorp and M. A. Wheaton were admitted by initiation. The first officers of the lodge were as follows: N. G., John Doughty; V. G., D. M. Stockman; R. S., J. M. Duncan; Treas., J. Frank; R. S. N. G., M. Dinkelspiel; L. S. N. G., Albert Knorp; R. S. V. G., T. J. Owen; L. S. V. G., W. H. Stephens; Warden, M. A. Wheaton; Cond., A. E. Charles; I. G., W. Farmer; O. G., Maurice Meehan.

The first meetings of the lodge were held in the second story of the brick building, over J. Frank & Co.'s store, and continued to be held at that place until about the year 1866, when the lodge made arrangements with the Masonic lodge and moved into their hall. In 1872 the lot and building where the present hall now stands was purchased, at a cost, including the improvements for hall purposes, of about \$8,000. The new hall was dedicated April 26, 1873, P. G. Master Charles N. Fox presiding. This hall is a beautiful one, well ventilated, and with its present furniture, which was recently purchased at an expense of about \$1,000, places it among the most pleasant halls of the Order in the State.

From the time of its organization 228 persons have held membership therein, and its present roll, from last report, numbers 113. The following Past Grands have held the appointment of D. D. G. Master for this district: John Doughty, 1860-61; M. Dinkelspiel, 1864-65; Henry Hubbard, 1866-67; Valentine Wilson, 1868-69. The lodge at present is nearly out of debt, and its assets amount to about \$13,000.

The present officers of the lodge are as follows: C. N. Edwards, N. G.; John R. Morris, V. G.; Rev. A. F. Hitchcock, R. S.; H. Hubbard, P. S.; George W. Greene, Treas.; John Henry, Warden; J. M. Jones, Cond.; J. W. Kerns, I. G.; W. J. Morris, O. G.; George T. Whitley, R. S. N. G.; Fred. Frank, L. S. N. G.; H. Hansen, R. S. V. G.; H. Manuel, L. S. V. G.; Frank Whitby, R. S. S.; William Trudgeon, L. S. S.

*Swisun Lodge, No. 49, A. O. U. W.*—This lodge was organized September 3, 1878, the chartered members being D. M. Miller, Rev. A. F. Hitchcock, John Krause, and ten others. The first officers elected to serve were: J. M.



Gregory, P. M. W.; Alexander Dunn, M. W.; H. Robinson, F. W.; S. G. Palmer, O.; O. R. Coghlan, Recorder; A. P. Spence, Financier; John Henry, Receiver; W. N. Bowen, Guide; John Wagoner, I. W.; C. F. Montgomery, O. W. The objects of this Order are too well known to be stated at length. It embraces, in addition to the mutual-aid principles common to many secret societies, an insurance of \$2,000 on the life of each member. Its system of mutual aid and life insurance is almost entirely free from the risks and failures of ordinary life-insurance companies. The Order now numbers over 10,000 members in this State, and is rapidly increasing, as it meets the wants of the great mass of men who wish to make provision for their families in the safest and most economical way.

*Bank of Suisun*:—This bank was established February 7, 1876, with an authorized capital of \$100,000, under the management of R. D. Robbins president, and W. Wolf, cashier, the directors being R. D. Robbins, C. F. D. Hastings, E. P. Hilborn, W. H. Turner and J. B. Hoyt. It does an ordinary banking business, and corresponds with the Anglo-Californian Bank of San Francisco, and J. and W. Seligman & Co. of New York.

*Suisun Fire Department*.—The history of the Fire Department of Suisun City may not unfairly be said to have commenced March 24, 1860, when the *Solano Herald* (A. R. Gunnison, editor,) modestly urged the necessity of an organization, and said that "the first step in the matter of preparation is to build two or more cisterns on the plaza, which may be kept always full of water and ready to meet any emergency." "A large force-pump, with hose attached," was considered sufficient apparatus for a beginning. In the next issue of the paper an anonymous advertisement appeared, calling for "a preliminary meeting of firemen, April 4th, at Wheaton's Hall," inviting all to be present who "were interested in the matter of protection against fire." At the time specified, as appears by an item of April 7th, a meeting was held and "a committee was appointed to take the matter into consideration, ascertain the cost of cisterns, force-pumps and other apparatus, and report April 11th at Chrisler's Hall. The next week's paper contained an item headed "Fire Wardens," showing that "at a meeting of those interested in protection from fire, Messrs. D. Ballard, D. E. Stockton, and J. B. Lemon, were elected Trustees, to receive the money subscribed by the citizens, expend the same in building cisterns and superintend the construction thereof." Another item shows that "at a meeting of Union Fire Co. No. 1, held on April 11th, John S. Miller presiding, T. J. McGarvey, J. Frank, and P. A. Wood, were appointed a committee on laws, and they thereupon presented a copy of the Constitution and By-laws of Weber Co. No. 1. of Stockton, which was adopted with slight amendments. The first officers elected were: Wm. J. Morris, Foreman; J. C. Owen, 1st Assistant; T. J. McGarvey, 2d Assistant; D. Ballard, Secretary; J. H. Marston, Treasurer.



After a season of struggles sufficient means was finally procured to purchase an engine, and it reached town on the steamer *Rambler* August 22, 1861, escorted by Ex-Chief F. E. R. Whitney, and half a dozen of the "Howard" boys of the Fire Department of San Francisco. It was manufactured by Hunneman & Co., of Boston, in 1857, and was the last one made by that firm for that city prior to the introduction of the steam engines now in use there. The reception was enthusiastic, and the "boys" had a good time at the "social hop" in the evening. In June, 1862, the paper referred to the needs of the department, and recalled the facts that since the first advocacy of its formation "the company had constructed two capacious cisterns, furnishing an ample supply of water, at a cost of \$400, and purchased an engine at a cost of \$1,600, and still owed for 550 feet of hose." September 12, 1862, John W. Owen and his associates in title donated the lot whereon the present engine-house was built. Since its formation, the company has passed through various grades of adversity and occasional prosperity, but since April 8, 1874, when the present foreman, John T. Hammond, was appointed to its leadership, it has been steadily progressing toward perfection and efficiency. It is now out of debt, owning its house, lot and apparatus, and is fairly officered and manned. Five public and two private cisterns in different parts of the town, averaging a capacity of 10,000 gallons each, help to insure the place against devastation by fire.

*Suisun and Fairfield Water Company.*—Was organized as a joint stock company, with one thousand shares of one hundred dollars each, on April 24, 1866. The officers, after permanent organization, were: Samuel Breck, President; M. Dinkelspiel, Vice-President; F. O. Staples, Treasurer; George A. Gillespie, Secretary, and W. K. Hoyt, Superintendent. There were five directors, from which the above officers were elected, except Hoyt. The remaining director being D. M. Stockman. The tanks, pumps, etc., were erected on land bought by the company, formerly owned by John Doughty and W. S. Wells, situated about one-half mile from Fairfield. Work was commenced soon after organization and completed March, 1868. There is a large "main" laid from the tanks through Fairfield to the south side of Suisun, a distance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and is made of cement, the smaller ones, leading to dwellings, etc., are iron. The present officers are: E. P. Hilborn, President; Lewis Pierce, Vice-President; Harvy Rice, Treasurer; D. M. Stockman, Secretary, and Josiah Wing, Jr., Superintendent. The company have erected this year (1879) two new tanks of 10,000 gallons capacity, and one tank-house.

*Suisun City Mills.*—At the head of the industries of California stands the growing of wheat; second in the catalogue is the manufacture of flour. The latter branch is steadily increasing, to keep pace with the demand, and the rapid progress being made in the cultivation of wheat.

First among the industries of this town is the turning of wheat into flour. The flouring mill of Suisun is not only an honor to the city, but a credit to the county. Solano county being one of the banner wheat counties of the State, a milling interest has obtained here that deserves more than a passing notice in this volume.

J. G. Edwards and S. C. Reed commenced the erection of a frame mill on the site where the present brick structure stands, May 1, 1854. It was a two-story building, in which were but two run of stone, and was only used as a custom mill. It was run by steam, and did its first work on October 1st of that year. In order to give place to a larger and better structure, this mill was torn down and moved away in the spring of 1858, a portion of which is now the Roberts' Hotel.

This firm the same spring commenced the erection of what is known as the Suisun City Mills. It turned its first wheel in October of that year. The main structure is 42x52, three stories high. The foundation story or basement is a solid system of stone masonry, two feet thick. The two stories above the basement are brick, with pitch and gravel roof over all. On the first floor is where the wheat is received. There are elevator spouts, screen spouts, and a garner in which the wheat is dampened for grinding, also the line of shafting, which drives the stones above, are located on this floor. On the second floor are four run of stone, supported by wooden hurst frames, one wheat garner and one revolving wheat screen. In the third story is where the wheat cleaning is done. There are two smutters, one National cut separator and one suction fan. There are also three hoppers, two for wheat and one for middlings, which feed the stones below. On this floor, but separated from the cleaning room, is the bolting chest and five reels.

To the east and rear of the main building is the engine room, 30x60 feet, built of brick, in which is a forty-horse steam engine, the main shaft of which rests on a solid stone foundation, thereupon hanging a balance wheel weighing one ton.

To the south of the engine room is located the boiler room, in which are two (36) tubular boilers, sixteen feet long.

S. C. Reed sold his interest in this mill to Jerry Marston, in October, 1859, and the enterprise was conducted under the firm name of Edwards & Marston until July, 1860, when Edwards sold to Stockman Bros. D. E. Stockman sold to Marston in 1866, and D. M. Stockman on August 3, 1867. This firm erected during the year 1866 a warehouse, one and two stories high, of brick, running east and north of the main building. It is 62x110 feet, with a capacity of one thousand tons. The office occupies a portion of this room, and there is also a car track running the entire length of the building to the slough dock, which affords the shipping facilities for the entire building.

Jerry Marston sold to E. P. Hilborn & Co., July, 1872, who are at present conducts the business, with Richard P. Le Gro as manager.

*Suisun Glee Club.*—This club was temporarily organized at the residence of D. M. Stockman, on June 14, 1878, and took permanent shape by the adoption of a constitution on the 12th of July following, with D. M. Stockman, President; T. G. Whitley, Treasurer and Secretary, and J. K. Bateman, Director. The present officers are S. B. Saunders, President; T. G. Whitney, Secretary and Treasurer, and J. K. Bateman, Director. The membership is thirty-seven. This club has already rendered the Cantata of Queen Esther, on four occasions, with marked success, and in a manner which would put into the shade towns and societies of greater pretensions; indeed, so much musical talent is seldom found in so small a compass. Let the Suisun Glee Club proceed!!!

NEWS PAPERS:—The first paper published in Suisun Township was the *Solano County Herald*. The first number of this paper was issued on the 2d day of October, 1858. This paper had been published at Benicia, having been established there in November, 1855, by Messrs. George and Cellers. At the time of its removal to Suisun it was under the management of Wm. J. Hooton & Co., the late Judge Wm. Wells being the other member of the firm. It was printed in a building on the south side of the plaza. December 17, 1859, J. G. Lawton, Jr., assumed control of the paper as editor and publisher, although he had been the editor previously. On the 10th of May, 1860, the management was again changed, Powers & Gunnison assuming control, with Gunnison in the editorial chair. Later in that year E. E. Hathaway became connected with the business, and the firm name was changed to O. B. Powers & Co. In 1862, H. Hubbard & Co. began the publication of the *Solano Press*, and continued the publication until September, 1866, when they disposed of their interest to G. A. Gillespie and Woodford Owens. In the fall of 1869 the *Press* and *Herald* were consolidated, and a new name given to the paper. It was called the *Solano Republican*. October 13th, 1875, O. B. Powers, who was the sole proprietor, disposed of the paper to Messrs. C. F. Montgomery and W. N. Bowen. Previous to this the paper had always been a six-column folio. At this time the subscription-list did not exceed one hundred, and the advertising patronage was merely nominal. The size of the paper was increased to a seven-column folio the second issue under the new management. The business prospects of the paper began at once to get brighter. The subscription-list was increased during the first year to nearly one thousand, and the advertising patronage increased in proportion. In the spring of 1877 a quarter-medium Nonpariel job press was purchased, and a full assortment of job type. In October, 1877, the paper was again enlarged, to a six-column quarto, (8 pages) and in June, 1878, it was again enlarged, to a seven-column quarto, which is its present size and form. Feb. 14th, 1879, the management again changed hands, W. N. Bowen disposing of his interest to L. L. Palmer, and the business is now



conducted under the firm name of Montgomery & Palmer, with C. F. Montgomery as editor and L. L. Palmer as associate editor. The *Republican* is a fearless defender and advocate of the rights of the people, and is a welcome weekly visitor to nearly every house in the upper portion of Solano county.

The *Solano County Democrat*, with Thompson & Sinthicun, publishers, was established at Suisun, April 30, 1868. In 1870 it was moved to Vallejo.

*The County Hospital.*—This building is situated about three miles to the east of Fairfield, the county seat, and covers an area of 30x64 feet. It is a building two stories high, on the first floor there being the office of the physician and drug store, the dining room, general sitting room, and six small wards, and bath houses as well. On the upper floor there are four large wards, while in the rear there is an addition for cook, stewards, and store rooms. It is throughout fitted with every modern improvement, its system of drainage being connected with a creek at the distance of a quarter of a mile. The physicians are Doctors A. T. Spence and W. G. Downing, both gentlemen well practiced in their profession, and much liked in the district.

*The Embarcadero* :—Time was when the scene was busy on this landing place. Before the railroad came to fly off with the large profits of grain from the upper part of the country, wagons by strings were wont to arrive to start their precious sacks of cereals, boxes of fruit, and hampers of vegetables to market, on board of schooners, sloops, and steamboats which then plied to this point. A warehouse of considerable proportions was constructed for the storage of freight, and all "went merry as a marriage bell." To-day a few regular traders arrive and depart at stated intervals; while a steamer makes the journey to San Francisco thrice a week. On the wharf are deposited tons of cobble stones, procured in the mountains near Rockville, and heaps of marble from Swan's quarries, awaiting shipment to San Francisco, there to be utilized, but, there is not much sign of life, for portions of the warehouse have fallen in and much desolation abounds.



## DENVERTON.

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*Geography*:—Denverton township is bounded on the north by Maine Prairie township, on the east by Rio Vista Township, on the south by Montezuma township, and on the west by Suisun township. It is rectangular in shape, and is a little longer north and south than east and west. Nurse's slough extends through a portion of the south-west portion. It is navigable for small craft as far up as Denverton. The western boundary line is the Mt. Diablo meridian line. Hence it lies in range 1 east, and it is in range 4 north, Mount Diablo Meridian.

*Topography*:—The western and northern portions of the township are comparatively level, but the southern and eastern portions, including a large part of the central portion, is quite hilly. This is especially so of the south-eastern portion, which extends into the heart of the Montezuma hills.

*Soil*:—The soil in this township is as varied as the State itself. The southwest portion is a salt-marsh, on which the tule thrives. It is not considered productive. Further northward, the soil is alluvial and adobe in sections, and white alkali and hardpan in other sections. The belt of alkali and hardpan extends along the northern portions of it. The eastern and south-eastern portions are almost exclusively adobe, and is very rich and productive. Of course nothing but a short, wild grass ever grows on the alkali land. It is used principally for grazing purposes. There is a gravel belt of very peculiar formation extending through the western portion of the township. It seems to be the bed of some old-time and long-since-forgotten stream, although at present it is not in the least depressed as compared with the adjacent land. The boundary lines of this gravel belt are clearly definable, to a single rod. The gravel ranges in size from a pea to a boulder a foot in diameter. This is an interesting topic for the geologists to discuss.

*Climate*:—The climate of this township is very similar to Rio Vista. The cold, damp west winds sweep the entire surface of the country, making the weather delightfully cool in mid-summer, while only a few miles to the northward they are suffering with heat.

*Products*:—Wheat and barley are the only grains which thrive to any great extent in this township. Little or no fruit or vegetables are grown except in occasionally favored spots. The yield of the former is fair on

most of the arable land in the township, but they are grown with unusual success in the Montezuma hill section.

*Schools* :—The school interests are represented by two districts, viz: Denverton and Montezuma. Only one teacher is employed in each of these schools, and the attendance is not very large.

*Churches* :—The Cumberland Presbyterians have a church building and organization near the location of the Montezuma District School-house. This church organization is the outgrowth of a Sunday school, started in November, 1864, with Mr. Parish as Superintendent. The building was erected in 1870. In 1875 it was destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt in 1876. The organizing members were: Mrs. E. D. Carey, Wm. Wight, Mrs. T. R. Stewart, Daniel Barnett, Nancy Barnett, Jas. L. Barnett, Sam'l Barnett. The pastors have been, Rev. D. E. Bushnell, who served till Jan. 1, 1874, and Rev. J. M. Crawford, who has served the church ever since. It is known as the Shiloh church. This is the only church building or organization in the township.

*Towns* :—Denverton is the only town in this township. It is located 10 miles east of Fairfield, at the head of navigation, on Nurse's slough, and was formerly called Nurse's Landing. Its name was changed to Denverton in 1858, at which time the post-office was established there. It was so named in honor of J. W. Denver, at that time member of Congress from this district. It contains a few houses and perhaps 50 inhabitants. It is supplied with city water—a private enterprize of Dr. Nurse's.

*Early Settlement* :—The first house erected in the township was built by Dr. S. K. Nurse in 1853. The entire country was then one great stretch of wild oats, reaching to a man's shoulder while on horseback, through which herds of elks, antelope and deer roamed at will. This building was soon followed by a residence erected by D. K. Barry, located about one-half mile to the eastward of Nurse's house. The old house was standing in 1878, on its original site. In 1854 Dr. Nurse built a store-house. He also constructed a wharf, with 100 feet frontage. It has since been extended to 300 feet. Mr. Stewart and his son Samuel, the Arnolds, Daniels, Cooks, and others, followed in rapid succession, until the land was all taken.

*Etcetera* :—In 1866 Dr. Nurse erected a fine brick store building. In 1867 he built a brick warehouse, 60x160 feet, with a storage capacity of 2,500 tons. The post-office was established in 1858, and Dr. Nurse appointed postmaster; he has held the office without interruption ever since, thus making him an incumbent for 21 years. He is probably the veteran



Isaac Hobbs





officeholder in Solano county, if not in California. In 1875 Dr. Nurse constructed a telegraph line, connecting Denverton with Suisun. In 1876 this line was merged into the Montezuma Telegraph Company, of which Dr. Nurse has always been president. In 1870 the Good Templars erected a building for lodge purposes. The lodge has thrived and sustained a good membership at that place for a great many years. Nurse's Slough is the intended outlet of the drainage canal which it is proposed to open from the head of Cache slough to the head of Nurse's slough. The canal will pass diagonally through Denverton township, but Maine Prairie and Rio Vista townships would be the ones who would reap the benefit of this.

*Denverton Lodge, I. O. G. T.*:—Was organized November 16, 1866, with twenty-three charter members. The dedication took place in Dr. S. K. Nurse's hall, where they continued to meet until 1870, then in the Schoolhouse in Denverton until after the erection in November, 1871, of their new hall. The charter officers were Judge J. B. Carrington, W. C. T.; Mrs. S. K. Nurse, W. V. T.; and Miss E. D. Kerry, Secretary.

## MAINE PRAIRIE.

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*Geography* :—Maine Prairie township is bounded on the north by Silveyville and Tremont townships, on the east by Yolo county and Rio Vista township, on the south by Rio Vista and Denverton townships, and on the west by Elmira township. It is located in range 2 and 3 east and 5 and 6 north, M. D. M. Linda slough, an offshoot from Cache slough, and quite a stream of water, forms the line of division between it and Rio Vista township on the south. Prospect slough, another offshoot of Cache slough, is the boundary line between it and Rio Vista township on the east; Cache slough, from its intersection with Prospect slough, extends in a northwesterly direction through the township for a distance of about ten miles; near the head of Cache slough it branches, and the north branch is known as Bounds slough; Cache slough is navigable for small vessels and light draught steamers.

*Topography* :—The entire surface of this township is almost a perfect level. The southeastern portion of it is tule land, which, as you pass northward or westward, passes off into a vast level plain.

*Soil* :—We are sorry that we cannot say as much in favor of the soil in this township as in some others in the county. Of course the tule land is the usual rich alluvial soil of that class of land, but the most of the other land is composed of alkali soil and “hard pan,” as it is called, old “salt licks,” and “buffalo wallows,” are numerous in that class of land. There is some adobe, and it is the most productive of all the land except the tule. A number of years ago the most of the land bordering on the tules on the west side of them was entered by settlers in small tracts from 80 acres to 640. In less than five years every settler had found out his mistake and had left for a more productive section, and to-day their deserted houses dot the plains, a sad faced finger-board pointing to blasted hopes and wasted fortunes. Where those hardy pioneers hoped some day to see happy homes and prosperous families, there is nothing but desolation. All these farms have been bought up by persons for sheep ranges.

*Climate* :—The climate of this township is milder than that in Rio Vista on its south, yet not so warm as that in Tremont on its north. Being so level the winds have a fair sweep across the vast stretch of plain and moor. The barrenness of these plains causes the heat to reflect to a great extent, and rising from the earth it mollifies and tempers the cold damp sea breeze,

making it one of the most delightful zephyrs. But on the other hand, when the north wind blows, it converts it almost into a veritable sirocco. In common with the entire county, it is very healthful.

*Products*:—The principal products of the township are wheat and barley. A considerable number of the farmers in the township are engaged in dairying on a limited scale. The yield of grain is seldom very great to the acre. Fruit and vegetables grow but very indifferently in all parts of it, except in the tule land.

*Early Settlement*:—Maine Prairie Township was mostly settled in the Fall of 1861, and in the years 1862 and 1863, it being included in what was known as the Lucco grant, which was previously in litigation but finally decided in favor of the United States, was immediately opened as public land for entry, the survey being made in the Summer of 1862. Among the earliest settlers in this vicinity were Mr. J. F. Brown, J. B. Jameson, Sherman Brown, who came in 1861, Albert Bennett, D. B. Brown, James Curk, H. N. Bentley, in 1862. The above-named are nearly all of the first comers that remain until the present time, very many having remained but a few years, others coming to take their places. The early settlers being mostly thorough-going American citizens, they thought the first thing to do was to establish schools and have a place for meeting; so a school district was petitioned for, taking in all vacant territory, it being about ten miles square, known as the Maine Prairie School District; since which time the districts of Binghamton, Morning Light and Enterprise have been carved out. A subscription was at once started, and some six or seven hundred dollars was received, with which two school-houses were enclosed and made to answer the purposes of school-room and church, free to all denominations, one at what is now Binghamton, and one at Maine Prairie Landing, George King (now of Dixon), J. B. Jameson and Albert Bennett being the trustees. For several years all efforts in this direction were heartily seconded by the older settlers who were carrying on business at Maine Prairie Landing—Mr. J. C. Merrithew, John N. Utter, Widow Lewis (the hostess of Maine Prairie Hotel), Deck & Co. (Mr. Deck, H. Wilcox, W. D. Vail), J. & Charles S. Cushing, merchants. On the completion of the C. P. Railroad the main business of Maine Prairie was cut off, the thousands of tons of grain and other products being transported by rail to market, instead of being shipped by water at the landing.

Mr. W. D. Vail at present carries on the business of warehousing, lumberyard, etc.

Captain James A. French has a large and well filled store. F. W. Petrus carries on blacksmithing in all its branches; also owns a farm, a mile or so out of town, which he farms.

The Widow Lewis keeps the only hotel in town.

The public school at present is taught by Miss Lizzie Furgerson.

*Formation of a Military Company:*—During the Summer of 1863, when the country was in great excitement growing out of our civil war, our patriotic and loyal citizens thought it advisable to organize a military company. Many were more than anxious to enroll themselves as soldiers, subject to the call of the State. The company was speedily formed, under the laws of California, and enrolled as a company of the State militia, receiving the name of "Maine Prairie Rifles," on the 19th day of September, 1863, Leland Stanford then being Governor, and William C. Kibbe Adjutant General. About sixty men were enrolled at the organization, subsequently numbering seventy-two. At the first election of officers Albert Bennett was elected captain (still residing at Maine Prairie); John Low (now of Capaz Valley), first lieutenant, A. S. Hopkins (now of Sacramento) and James Bingham other lieutenants. Binghamton was chosen as the headquarters of the company. It was soon decided by the company to build an armory, resulting in the erection of a brick fireproof building, about 35x50 feet, one story high. The many meetings of the company for drill, target practice, picnics and other things which grew out of the formation of the company, had a most salutary and happy influence in binding the whole community together in that harmony and good feeling for which Binghamton has been so noted. The company continued in a healthy condition until disbanded. The "Maine Prairie Rifles," together with about half of the companies of the State, were disbanded under the administration of Governor Haight; Albert Bennett, having been the captain of the company during its existence, being from time to time almost unanimously re-elected. The company sold its armory to Mr. D. L. Munson, who was engaged in merchandising, he fitting it up for a store, adding another story for a public hall. The building was subsequently sold to the school trustees for a school-house—the former school-house having been destroyed by fire—the lower story being fitted for school purposes, the hall being for public use. Mr. F. M. Righter is the the present efficient and popular teacher.

*Lodge of Good Templars:*—Was organized at Binghamton, June 9, 1863. Mr. H. N. Bentley and wife, Jos. Bingham and wife, O. Bingham, and G. W. Frazer and wife being among the charter members. It became a large and flourishing lodge, numbering, at one time, about one hundred and twenty-five members. It has continued from its organization until the present time without a break—nearly sixteen years. At present its membership is about thirty.

The late H. N. Bentley was one of its most efficient and earnest workers. A book containing the names of those initiated, from the organization until now, is kept, showing at present nearly *four hundred names*.



*The M. E. Church of Binghamton* :—Was organized about the year 1865. There had grown to be, during the two previous years, quite a large and flourishing society, under the name of "Union Service," as the christian population was of almost all denominations. A large Sunday School, in the meantime, had developed.

The M. E. Church, with its accustomed shrewdness and tact, made the first organization as a church. Nearly all fell in with the new order of things, and thus was permanently established the M. E. Church of Binghamton, always having a good influence on the community at large. The Sunday School was carried on without being especially under the control of the M. E. Church until November 11, 1866, when a resolution was adopted "to reorganize and place the school under the especial care and supervision of the M. E. Church." Mr. Geo. C. Mack, now of Westminster, Los Angeles county, was chosen Superintendent.

Binghamton and Dixon, at present, constitute the circuit; T. H. Woodward, preacher in charge.

*Protestant Methodist Church* :—About the year 1865 an organization of the Protestant Methodist Church was made at Maine Prairie Landing. Among its movers were Rev. T. New, Rev. G. B. Triplett, and Revs. Dunton and Graves, and a few others. The enterprise entirely failed in a year or two.

*Cumberland Presbyterian Church* :—About the year 1871 a Cumberland Presbyterian Church was formed at Maine Prairie Landing by Rev. Mr. Bushnell, then of Suisun, now of San Jose; continuing his ministrations until his removal to San Jose, since which time Rev. J. Naff. Crawford has officiated as pastor.

The town of the township is known by the township name—Maine Prairie. It is a shipping and trading point at the head of navigation on Cache slough. It lies eighteen miles north-east of the county seat. In the year 1859 Capt. Merrithew, in company with J. H. Utter, located on the south bank of the slough, and began a general merchandise, grain, and lumber business. The following year, 1860, H. G. Deck, H. Wilcox, and W. D. Vail formed a co-partnership, known as Deck & Co., and began a general merchandise business on the north side of the slough, opposite Merrithew & Utter. In 1860 a hotel was built by George King, and other houses rapidly followed until quite a little village was built up; but the flood of 1862 swept things here as at Rio Vista. There was nothing left to mark the site of the town. The water stood twelve feet deep in the streets, and as deep for miles in every direction, which was lashed into a seething sea by the howling south-east storm winds, sweeping everything from existence, and blotting the town out of existence in its relentless fury.

As soon as the waters had subsided most of the settlers came back again ; but, while some rebuilt on the old site, many preferred to go farther up the slough where the land was a trifle more elevated. Accordingly Mrs. Rebecca Lewis surveyed a town plat on her ranch about one-fourth of a mile above the old site. This new town received the name of Alton, being so named by a pioneer settler in the town, Mr. S. R. Perry, a former resident of Alton, Illinois. The first business conducted in the town was by Cushing Bros. (C. S. and J. H.) They were dealers in general merchandise. Perry & Co. were the next to locate here. The firm consisted of S. R. Perry and Wm. C. Palmer, both now residing in Rio Vista. They carried a full stock of general goods, also dealt in grain and lumber. They built a handsome brick store building, also an extensive warehouse, both of which stand to-day as mute witnesses to the fact that "The best laid plans of mice and men gang aft alee." The buildings were erected before the railroad era in California, and there was no more promising point for a business of that nature in the State. The grain from all the valleys, away to the north and westward, centered there for shipment, and the amount shipped from there yearly was exceeded by no place in the State except Stockton. The year of 1863 was an uncommonly bountiful one, and in the fall the grain came teeming forth from all directions in enormous quantities. One team is reported to have drawn 36,800 pounds of wheat, at one load, from Putah creek. During this year there were 50,000 tons of grain shipped from this point alone. It is said that it was a common occurrence to see 180 wagons in town with grain in a single day. But it might be of interest to note that during the following season only one load of barley was brought to the town. This was a dry year, and a hard one, too, it proved for the farmers of California. Mrs. Lewis built a hotel there during the year, and continues to this day to dispense rest and refreshments to the weary traveler who chances to stray so far away from the line of ordinary travel. The post office was established in 1862, Capt. J. C. Merrithew being appointed postmaster. A branch office of the Western Union Telegraph Company was established there in 1870. Since the days of railroads the town has been on the down grade. The immediate surrounding country would support a town of any size, and the outside supply was shut off, of course, by the railroad. The town looks old ; the buildings are unpainted, rickety, and dilapidated. A general air of lonesomeness and desolation seems to pervade the place, and a stranger is glad to get away from the place. It is a good shipping point, and the time may come when it will regain some of its pristine glories, but this is doubtful.

## MONTEZUMA.

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*Geography*:—Montezuma township is bounded on the north by Denver-ton township, on the east by Rio Vista township, on the south by the Sacramento river and the bay of Suisun, and on the west by Suisun township.

*Topography*:—By far the major portion of this township consists of large, steep hills, known as the Montezuma hills, from whence the township derives its name. To one traveling over the level plains of the northern townships, these hills seem like small mountains, and it is a great surprise to strangers to learn that they are cultivated. On the southern and western borders there is a belt of swamp and overflowed land, but it bears a small relation to the entire township.

*Soil*:—The soil of the Montezuma hills is mostly adobe, and it is unexcelled for growing grain, but is of little use for other purposes. The marsh soil is alluvial, but as it is a salt-marsh, it is good for but little except pasturage.

*Climate*:—The trade winds sweep over this township with great force, bearing with it more or less dampness. It is very healthful throughout, even on the marsh land. The climate cannot be called delightful, although it is in California, but is doubtless preferable for many reasons to warmer sections further north.

*Products*:—The principal products are grain and hay. Wheat and barley thrive magnificently on these hills, while the growth of wild oats is still luxurious wherever they have a chance. Fruits and vegetables do not thrive very well; the adobe soil is too stiff and cold for vegetables, while the strong winds destroy the trees.

*Industries*:—The principal industry of the people is farming, but the fishing for salmon, and canning the same has of late years assumed considerable proportions. There are two canneries located at Collinsville, and one on Chipps Island. The three combined have a capacity of about 60,000 one-pound cans a day. They afford employment to about 300 men, and about 250 more are engaged in catching the fish.

*Early Settlement*:—Among the first houses built in Solano County was one erected in this township. It was an adobe, and still stands, and is occupied by Mr. L. P. Marshall. This house was constructed in 1846, by L. W.

Hastings. He was a Mormon agent, sent into California to seek an eligible site for the location of a colony of Mormons. He chose this point, at the head of Suisun Bay, and near the junction of the two great rivers of the country—Sacramento and San Joaquin—and laid out a town site. Owing to the fact that there was no timber land conveniently located, the Mormons refused to settle there. Bayard Taylor, in his "Eldorado," mentions the "Montezuma House," as it has always been called, as "the city of Montezuma, a solitary house, on a sort of headland, projecting into Suisun Bay, and fronting its rival three-house city, New-York-of-the-Pacific." Hastings established a ferry between the site now occupied by Collinsville, and the Contra Costa side of the bay, for the accommodation of travelers passing either way. This was probably the first ferry ever established on the Sacramento or San Joaquin rivers. Hastings remained at this place about three years, but when the gold-excitement broke out he went into the mines. In the winter of 1853, L. P. Marshall and his sons John and C. K., arrived from the States with a band of cattle. In passing down the Sacramento river they came upon the adobe house built by Hastings, and were glad to take shelter in it from the storms. The house was in a very dilapidated condition, but was easily repaired, and served well the purpose of a shelter. In and about the house they found numerous appliances for the manufacture of counterfeit coin, such as crucibles, dies, copper, etc. It is supposed that a band of counterfeiters had found the place deserted, and taken possession of it. It is possible, however, that Hastings had used them in coining money to be used by the Mormons when they arrived. Hastings had a squatter's claim to the premises, which was bought by John Marshall for his father (the latter being at the time absent from the State) who gave, as a consideration, two mules and six head of cattle, all valued at \$1,000. The second house built in the township was a frame-building, erected by F. O. Townsend, in 1853. It was located on what is now known as the Kirby farm. Lucco laid claim to all the land in this and Denverton township as a Spanish grant, but he failed in establishing his claim, and in 1855 the land was declared to be Government land, and open for pre-emption.

**COLLINSVILLE:**—Collinsville is the only town in the township; it is a shipping port on the Sacramento river, just at the *de bouchure* of that stream. In 1859, C. J. Collins pre-empted the land where the town now stands. In 1861, he surveyed a town plat and built a wharf and store; previous to this time the steamers, which plied the Sacramento river, had never stopped at this point. The embryotic town was christened for its projector—Collinsville. Some time during the same year a post office was established here, and Geo. W. Miller was appointed the first Postmaster. In 1867, Mr. Collins sold his property to S. C. Bradshaw, and he changed the name of the place to Newport. The old Californians well remember Newport and the



enterprise displayed by its proprietor in the disposition of town lots, and, perhaps, a few at the East have cause to remember him also; huge maps of an extensive town plat were placed into the hands of agents, who visited all the principal Eastern cities, and sold and resold lots covering all the swamp land in that section; excursions were gotten up in San Francisco, and a person paid a certain amount (\$10, we think) for a round trip ticket, which included a claim to a town lot in the flourishing (on paper) town of Newport. At the end of about five years, the property again changed hands, E. I. Upham becoming the owner; he changed the name back to the original, and so it continues to this day. Mr. Upham is an energetic man, and he has made quite a business and shipping point out of the town; two lines of steamers stop there, going each way, daily; it is connected with the outside world by the Montezuma telegraph.

*Schools and Churches:*—There is only one school house in the township; this one is situated near the town of Collinsville; strange to note, there is not a church in the township. Here is a broad and fertile field for some zealous missionary.

It is also the chief salmon fishing ground in California, and large numbers are shipped daily to San Francisco. At certain seasons of the year there are vast numbers canned for export to various parts of the world.

The village has two hotels, three saloons, billiards, etc., two stores, post-office, telegraph office, and an agency of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express.

The first salmon canning establishment in California was erected here by A. Booth & Co., who afterwards discontinued and was succeeded by E. Corville & Co. who have carried on the business for two years. Other canneries have since been erected and are now conducted by the Sacramento River Packing Co.

## VACAVILLE.

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*Boundaries*:—In the last apportionment of Solano county into townships on June 27, 1866, that of Vacaville is ordered as follows: Commencing at the N. E. corner of section 18, township 5 N., R. 1 E.; thence west on section line to S. W. corner of section 3, township 5 N., R. 1 W.; thence north to the N. E. corner of section 3, township 5 N., R. 1 W.; thence west on the township line to the boundary line of the Armijo rancho at the N. W. corner of said township; thence north and west, following said boundary to the county line at the S. E. corner of Napa county; thence northerly along the boundary line between Napa and Solano counties to Putah creek; thence down said creek to a point one mile W. of Mount Diablo meridian; thence south on section lines to the S. W. corner of section No. 1, township 6 N., R. 1 W.: thence east two miles; thence south to the place of beginning.

*Topography*:—The area of Vacaville township is 66,790 acres, and is diversified into mountains and valleys of the finest soil in the county. A spur of hills extends from its boundary, and runs nearly north to the Putah creek, the range having a general average of three miles in width; the slopes, benches and valleys being renowned for early fruits and vegetables. West of these hills lies Pleasants' valley, which extends to the above mentioned creek; also famed for its particularly genial climate and growing properties, it sending the first fruits and vegetables into market from any part of the State. The great Vaca valley, formerly known as the Ulattis, lies to the north-east of that of Suisun, is five miles in length, and one and a half broad: it runs between two ranges of hills of considerable altitude, and opens into the Sacramento valley. It, and its two off-shoots, Lagoon and Pleasants' valley, are the admiration of all travelers. This township is also well favored as regards streams; for we find that the Sweeny creek rises in the Vaca hills, six miles north of the town of Vacaville, flows in a north-easterly direction for the distance of eight miles; thence in a south-easterly course to the vicinity of Maine Prairie, and empties into Cache slough. There is also the Ulattis creek, which rises in these hills, about five miles west of the town, and after flowing in an easterly direction finds its way into the west branch of Cache slough; and the Alamo creek, which rises about four miles from Vacaville, as also the Pleasants' valley creek, which flows in a north-easterly direction through the valley of that name, and discharges itself into the Rio de los Putos.

*Early Settlement*:—The first settlers in this portion of Solano county, as has been mentioned elsewhere, were the two Spaniards, Vaca or Baca, and Peña, who, having received a grant from the Mexican government, settled here in the year 1841. In accordance with the provisions of all the grants of land of those days, these early pioneers commenced the erection of houses, the tilling of land, the planting of trees, and the rearing of stock. Adobe residences were constructed, wherein they dwelt; while others were erected in far off corners for the shelter of their herders and laborers. Following the Vaca and Peña families, were Albert Lyon, John Patton and three others who came with them, namely, J. P. Willis, and Clay Long. These men entered into, the then, only occupation which offered itself, that of stock-raising. Two or three years later there arrived J. H., W. B., and Garard Long, who were shortly after followed by Marshall M. Bayse. This was in the year '49. In 1850 there came Dollarhide and his three sons. Up to this year there had only two women arrived in the valley, they being the wives of Messrs. Lyon and Hollingsworth; though where the latter family located we have been unable to trace. In 1848, Hollingsworth, and a companion named Newman, while on their way to the mines, were murdered by Indians. The bodies were shortly after found by one of the Messrs. Longs and a party, while on a prospecting tour, and by them decently buried. Hollingsworth's family remained in Vaca valley for ten or twelve years after his death, when they broke up and removed to various parts of the State. Settlers, after this era, would appear to have arrived more rapidly.

In 1851, J. P. Long brought with him the first flock of sheep that had ever crossed the plains to this State. They were three thousand in number—he started with ten thousand head—which he drove to Vaca valley. Mr. Long remained in the township until 1854, when he returned to Missouri, and in 1859 went to Texas, where he follows farming, besides having a large cotton plantation.

In 1852, Edward McGeary, John Fisk, Mason Wilson, McGuire and his family, J. G. Parks, W. R. Miller, Richardson and S. W. Long, and W. A. Dunn and family, located in the township, and affairs partook of a settled appearance. The wonderful fertility of the district had been tested, and the rank growth of vegetation was fast falling before the arts and sciences of agriculture and commerce.

Let us glance at the Vacaville township of to-day!

As viewed from the head of Pleasants' valley no more picturesque landscape can be found throughout the length and breadth of the Golden State than that stretching to the southward. This glorious glen, though comparatively prescribed in breadth is possessed of a soil of the richest kind of alluvial sediment, formed mostly from the *debris* of the adjacent mountain sides. Within the scope of vision there is nought to be seen but one

vast orchard and vineyard, arriving at a perfection which could only, in less favored spots, be attained by the tenderest care of forcing and training. Passing below the above-mentioned natural conservatory, the eye wanders over the wider and more extended Vaca valley. Here the orchards become less large and vast fields of grain present themselves—"long fields of barley and of rye," as Tennyson hath it; though on this occasion the latter cereal gives place to wheat, a prospect which brings with it rare content, content to the eye, as it rests on the limitless expanse of green, and content to the mind as the thought is flashed back of the number of hungry mouths and eager hands which will be fed and aided by the produce of these fields, in every quarter of the habitable globe.

The first settler in Pleasants' valley was J. M. Pleasants, who located there in the year 1851. Mr. Pleasants has some eight hundred acres of valley and hill land, that along the banks of the creek being well adapted for the growing of fruit and vegetables, while back towards the hills the soil is admirably adapted for the cultivation of grain. The hills offer abundant pasturage. Mr. Pleasants has here a very fine orchard. To the south of his lands lie the Pleasants' valley school, while at no great distance is the mill lately erected by him. The motive power is oxen working on a tread-wheel. Five of these animals are now used, but these have been found to be inadequate to perform the required task; the power, therefore, will shortly be augmented by the addition of others. Everything is ground in this mill, from barley to XXX flour.

The residence of W. J. Pleasants is situated on the opposite bank of the creek to the mill in the midst of a splendid orchard and fine grounds. This gentleman is the possessor of one thousand and fifty acres of magnificent valley and hill lands.

As a criterion of what can be done in the matter of fruit trees and grape vines, we would here enumerate the numbers of each that a few of the principal growers have on their lands: John Dolan, Sr., has about ten thousand vines and about one thousand each of peach and apricot trees; M. R. Miller has one hundred acres in fruit and vines alone; L. W. Buck has one hundred and fifty-six acres on his ranch, ninety of which he has in cultivation, where he has twenty-seven thousand vines of choice varieties, fourteen thousand having been set out this spring (1879); twelve thousand cherry trees, as well as a large number of apple, peach, and apricot; he has also one hundred and twenty-five orange and lemon trees in a most flourishing condition, with every prospect of a speedy maturity; while W. W. Smith has as many as four thousand cherry trees in a prosperous condition. In addition to this particular line of cultivation, as we have already mentioned, there are several large farms throughout the district, that of Dr. W. J. Dobbins, which contains about fourteen hundred and ninety-five acres, being



among the largest. In May of this year a visitor to the district writes: "The crop prospect in that section is simply immense. The grain crop could not look better, and, judging from the present outlook, there will be a heavy yield this year. The outlook for fruit is very encouraging indeed. The trees are fairly groaning under their burden, and we noticed limbs which had broken off, owing to the amount of fruit on them. We were informed that from one hundred to one hundred and fifty tons of fruit were shipped daily from Vacaville during some months of the year. This will give a person some idea of the amount of fruit grown in that section."

VACAVILLE.—On August 21, 1850, Manuel Cabeza Vaca deeded to William McDaniel nine square miles of land, the consideration for which was that McDaniel should lay out a town site on one of the square miles, name it Vacaville, and deed M. C. Vaca certain lots in said town, as well as pay the sum of three thousand dollars. Here follows the document: "Deed of Manuel Cabeza Vaca to William McDaniel. August 21, 1850. Consideration \$3,000. Doth grant, bargain, sell and convey unto second party, all his right, title and interest in and to a certain tract of land in the County of Solano, and known and described as follows: The point at which the boundary of this tract of land was found is one mile and a half a mile due north of the point where the county road crosses the water beach or *arroya deoagua* about one mile and a half east of said Manuel Cabeza Vaca's Rancho, thence due west to the base of the mountains in a southerly direction three English miles, thence due east three English miles, thence due north three English miles, thence west to the place of beginning. So as to include three English miles square or nine square miles of land, and it is hereby agreed that the said McDaniel is to lay off on any one mile square of said land a town to be called Vacaville, and 1,055 of the lots in said town are to be deeded to him, the said M. C. Vaca, said lots to be average lots.

Signed, MANUEL <sup>his</sup> X CABEZA VACA.  
mark

[SEAL]

Witness: L. B. MIZNER.

Acknowledged August 21, 1850, before B. D. HYAM, N. P.

Recorded August 22, 1850.

William McDaniel, on August, 1850, deeded to L. B. Mizner, an undivided half interest in this tract of land. They laid out a town site about the centre of the township and in accordance with the deed of M. C. Vaca named the place Vacaville, deeded to him two hundred lots on October 16, 1850. The town was surveyed by E. H. Rowe and a plat thereof duly recorded on December 13, 1851. So much for the birth of the town of Vacaville. The first building was erected in 1850 by William McDaniel; the second one put up was a rude edifice used as a hotel by James McGuire.

The first store was opened by E. F. Gillespie on block No. 16, it being a small tool-house owned by Mason Wilson. The following year he removed to a building he had erected on block No. 20, having previously purchased the entire block. The stone building is still standing and is the property of M. Blum. The first death which occurred in the township was in the year 1852, it being that of a stock-raiser named McGuire, who also kept a house of entertainment in the village. The situation of the town is very beautiful, surrounded as it is by such extensive farms; it is a most excellent point for trade, the places of traffic of all kinds doing a thriving business. About two years ago Vacaville was laid low by a fire which to-day leaves no traces. The business houses are located on either side of Main street, west of the Ulattis creek and embody all the variety of stores required for the center of a largely populated district.

*Vaca Valley and Clear Lake Railroad Co.*:—Chief among the interests of the town, and which adds considerably to its prosperity is the railroad which now extends from Elmira to Madison in Yolo county passing through Vacaville and Winters. In the summer season this line does a prosperous business in freight and passengers. At present its managers are busily engaged in supplying the C. P. R. with gravel for ballasting their track. The road was incorporated and built in the year 1869 from Elmira to Vacaville to accommodate the shipping of fruit and vegetables. In 1876 it was extended to Winters, Yolo county. In 1877 it was incorporated as the Vaca Valley and Clear Lake Railroad Co., and extended to Madison, Yolo county, making the entire distance now laid about thirty miles. The officers are: President, A. M. Stevenson; Treasurer, T. Mansfield; Secretary, E. Allison; General Superintendent, G. B. Stevenson; General Freight Agent, T. Mansfield.

**CHURCHES.** *Baptist Church*:—The Baptist Church of Vacaville was organized in the chapel of the California College with seventeen constituent members. Mr. P. C. Dozier was elected church clerk; Professor M. Baily being requested to fill the pulpit when no other preacher was provided by the church. Ministers from abroad filled the duties until February, 1873, when Rev. J. B. Saxton was appointed pastor and W. J. Sandefur, church clerk. Mr. Saxton resigned his charge in August, 1877, as did also Mr. Sandefur, since when the following gentlemen have officiated as church clerk: Prof. Kelly, J. T. Wallace, C. C. Bateman, M. Young and J. Donaldson. On October 13, 1877, the Rev. S. A. Taft, D. D. was elected to the pastorate and served for several months. In January, 1879, the Rev. W. Gregory, D. D. was called to the pulpit and is the present incumbent. The following have been the Deacons since the organization of the church: Professor M. Baily, elected February 8, 1873, Messrs. Brier and Walker, elected February 9, 1878, and J. Donaldson on March 16, 1879.

*The Church of Seventh-day Advents* :—In December, 1877, there came to Vacaville B. A. Stevens, who commenced a series of lectures which resulted in the organizing of a church community under the above doctrine, consisting of between fifty and sixty members. This congregation has been ever since kept up by the indulgence of the members. There is no resident pastor, but occasionally the pulpit is supplied from San Francisco or elsewhere.

*The Christian Church* :—This church was organized in 1855 about two and a half miles from Vacaville with eleven members, but shortly after they moved into the town. Before this, 1874, their membership numbered two hundred. The first pastor was the Rev. Mr. McCorkle who remained with his congregation for two years when he was followed by various preachers, the last being Alexander Johnson. The value of the church property is \$1,500.

*Davis Hotel* :—This house is situated on the northeast corner of block No. 14 and fronts Main street. It was built by Mason Wilson in 1858 and finished in October of that year. The main building is 30x65 feet, two stories, of brick; there is an L 18x45 feet, two stories high with a kitchen extending east which is 12x16 feet, all of brick, while the establishment contains thirty rooms as well as a large double parlor. The building cost \$14,000 including fixtures. On April 20, 1874, it was purchased by E. S. Davis, when his brother, J. F. Davis, took charge of it and has been the proprietor ever since. To the west and rear of the hotel is a garden with neatly laid out walks, ornamented with flowers and beautified by shade trees, while to the east of the property, and having the same owner, is a grove of Eucalyptus trees fronting Depot street, forming a favorite resort for picnics and such like.

*California College* :—This institution was started by Professor Anderson, of San Francisco, in the year 1855, as a private school, the building being one of the earliest erected away from the city of Benicia and the rising town of Vallejo. This school Professor Anderson maintained until the year 1858; it was a frame building, but his undertaking having been crowned with a certain amount of success he, in the meantime, erected a building of brick 50x80 feet as a College, while attached to the principal erection, at a distance of about 75 feet, a temporary structure was built two stories in height. There was also constructed a boarding-house of brick for the female department, and other houses in the grounds, for the males. The building, as originally erected by Mr. Anderson, was situated on the south side of Ulattis creek, on block No. 8.

In the year 1861, or, possibly later, the Rev. J. C. Stewart, by dint of extreme labor, received an endowment from the people of Solano, and the ad-



jaacent counties, to the amount of \$20,000, which, with the interest on this sum, was the Pacific Methodist College started by the Pacific Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Its first President was the Rev. J. C. Stewart, who would appear only to have served a year. The next President was the Rev. W. T. Lucky, D.D., an office he maintained until the spring of 1865. During his regimæ, though, it was then reported for political reasons, the college was burned. This did not, however, interfere with the prosperity of the school, for on the destruction by fire of the principal edifice, a temporary use was made of a tent until after the exhibitions. The following term was commenced in a boarding-house arranged for the purpose, whre they continued until the completion of the present building, which is of brick. Considerable delay was caused, however, in the attempt to construct the edifice of concrete ; this was a failure, from the consequences of a storm which washed all the necessary amalgamations away. The loss to the M. E. C. S., was considered to be between five and six thousand dollars. Almost immediately thereafter, a brick building of 60x90 feet was in the the course of construction on an elevation of land overlooking the town that had been originally owned by Mason Wilson, who had exchanged it for other property to the M. E. C, S., and which was completed in the year 1866 at a cost of \$25,000. Shortly after the erection of the new college, Dr. Lucky resigned the presidency and was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Gober, who held the position for one term and was in turn succeeded by Rev. J. R. Thomas, D.D., LL.D., who held it until 1871, when the College was removed to Santa Rosa, in Sonoma county.

The College then would appear to have changed hands, as will be gleaned from the following excerpt from the report of C. L. Fisher, Chairman of the Committee on Education, at the fourteenth anniversary of the Pacific Baptist Association held at Petaluma, Sonoma county, in October, 1871 :

“ On the first day of December, A. D. 1870, we came into the possession of the well known college property of the Southern Methodist denomination at Vacaville, Solano county, California, valued at \$25,000. By the payment of \$4,000 on the 3d day of November, A. D. 1870, this property was formally accepted by our denomination through an Educational Convention duly called for that purpose ; who also at that time elected a Board of Trustees, to whom was intrusted its future management and control, and who adopted a Constitution and By-Laws for their guidance. Being thus at once put in possession of a property valuation sufficient to enable us to secure a college charter under the laws of our State, on the                    day of the present month such charter was duly received under the name of “ California College.”

“ On the 4th day of January, 1871, by the election of the aforesaid Trustees, Professor Mark Bailey, of Petaluma, assumed the Presidency of the College and opened its first session with fourteen scholars. Since that





Robert Theby



time its cause has been onward; its influence widening; and under God's blessing, with the fostering sympathy and encouragement which is due from us as a denomination, its success assured."

A settlement made by Rev. J. E. Barnes, and appended to the report quoted above, shows the amount received up to May 16, 1871, to be \$2,971 38. Of this amount there was paid to teachers, agent, and incidental expenses, \$1,193 15, leaving a balance of \$1,778 23 to be paid on notes given for the purchase of the college.

As is seen, Professor Mark Bailey, who was the first President, held his office until the spring of 1873, when Dr. A. S. Morrell, of Kentucky, was elected. In November, 1875, he was superseded by the election of T. W. G. Green, who held office until May, 1877, when Dr. S. A. Taft, of Santa Rosa, was chosen President until 1878, when the present Principal, Dr. U. Gregory, was elected.

*Endowment*:—In April, 1873, at a convention held at Vacaville, there was subscribed the sum of \$3,700, a large portion of which was given by the residents of the town for the purposes of endowment, which, in the same summer, J. B. Saxton, on the same plan, increased by \$6,000, when the financial work was handed to Dr. Morrell, who swelled the amount by \$4,000.

The institution has in money and remunerative land \$20,000, as an endowment. A valuable farm of 255 acres, within two miles of the college, has been given by Deacon Lankershim, of the Metropolitan Church, San Francisco. The Trustees have authorized the President to raise a fund of \$3,000, the semi-annual interest of which is to be applied in the purchase of books for the college library, which now contains about 2,500 volumes. The Degrees of Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts are conferred.

## GREEN VALLEY.

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*Geography*:—On June 27, 1866, the boundaries of Green Valley township were finally ordered to be as under: Commencing at a rock mound on the crest of hills in section 34, township 4, N. R. 3 W., established by R Norris for a boundary between Napa and Solano counties; thence northerly along the boundary line of said counties, to the north line of township 5, N. R. 3 W.; thence east along said township line to the dividing ridge running to the peak called "Twin Sisters;" thence southerly along said divide to Suisun creek, passing on the line of A. Blake and William Brown's land; thence down said creek to the south-east corner of Hiram Macy's land; thence south to the north line of section 16, township 4, N. R. 2 W.; thence west to Cordelia slough; thence down said slough to the north line of sections 31 and 32, township 4, N. R. 2 W.; thence west along said north line to the boundary line of Solano and Napa counties.

*Topography*:—This picturesque valley lies to the eastward of the Suscol hills, four miles east of Suscol valley, is six miles in length, one and a half in breadth and derives its name from a large portion of it being green the year round; it is watered by the Green Valley creek which rises in the south-west corner of township 5, N. R. 2 W., and runs in a south-easterly course for about eight miles and finally empties itself into Cordelia slough at Bridgeport.

GREEN VALLEY:—This is without doubt the acme of perfection as regards scenery, no finer could scarcely exist anywhere. Starting from Bridgeport and taking a northerly direction, following the creek as it meets us with many a babble and rush, we enter the narrow gorge which brings us into Green Valley proper. To the left are the bold and well defined mountains which separate Solano from Napa county; to the right are those which mark the boundary of Suisun valley, while in front is a prospect of ravishing beauty of hill and glade, interspersed with wooded knolls and shady ravines, which almost defy description. On either side are well laid out grounds having residences placed in the midst of gardens gladdening the eye with every color of flower and foliage, while on the hill sides appear acre upon acre of grape vines, arranged with the regularity and perfection of extreme nicety. After passing through what may be termed the throat of the vale, the scene extends into a wide amphitheatre of untold glory; at the upper end are the famous Green Valley falls developing a prospect



which repays any amount of fatigue and toil. From either hand the speaking rills pour their murmuring waters into the parent stream, after purling down the mountain sides in many a beauteous rapid and cascade; shady pools give promise of rare sport to the followers of the gentle art, high rocks suggest the lair of snakes and other creeping things; wild flowers in inaccessible spots add quietude to the scene, while the swooping hawk high over head acts as a terror to the merry songsters as they flit in frightened excitement from branch to twig and back to branch again. Our feeble pen can give no semblance of an idea as to the beauty of this scene; appreciation can only be attained by seeing it for oneself.

*Grape Growing Interest*:—This enterprise was commenced by John Voly-pka, an Austrian, who located a farm at the foot, or near the foot of the "Twin Sisters" mountain in the spring of 1858, planting a vineyard at that date and commencing the manufacture of wine in 1863. In the fall of 1860 Henry Shultz planted out a vineyard, being joined by his brother in the fall of the year, the firm now being C. Shultz & Co. They have on their grounds a wine cellar 38x100 feet in dimensions in which are about twenty-five casks with a capacity of from five to thirteen hundred gallons each. In the cellar there are also ranged pipes and barrels, making the entire capacity in the vicinity of about ten thousand gallons. S. F. Jones, the largest manufacturer, settled in Green Valley in the year 1860, where he has erected a very complete cellar capable of containing fifty thousand gallons, and having all the necessary appliances appertaining to an establishment of this nature. From Mr. Jones we learn many most interesting facts connected with the making of wine. He has ninety acres laid out in vines from which he distills about six thousand gallons per acre when crops are good. Henry Brown also commenced the business in 1863. The foregoing are among the more important names interested in the development of this special trade; there are, however, many others, but want of space precludes our mentioning all, save those of the principal manufacturers.

*CORDELIA*:—Next to Benicia this is the town of longest life in the county. Originally it was situated in Green Valley, about one-half mile north of the present town of Bridgeport, on the old stage road between Sacramento and Benicia. As far back as the year 1853 there was a post office established here, but it was afterwards removed to Rockville and thereafter to Bridgeport. The place, which now only exists in name, has been the scene of many of the meetings of the early county conventions, but the requirements of the times, plus the railroad, have absorbed it.

*BRIDGEPORT*:—The successor to the glories of the above described town is a station on the California Pacific Railroad situated about fifteen miles

from Vallejo. It is located upon the banks of a navigable slough which falls into Suisun bay, and is situated at the entrance to Green valley. It has one Episcopal church, a school, railroad depot, hotel, box factory, etc., and possesses a population of about three hundred souls.

ROCKVILLE:—This hamlet lies on the old stage road about five miles west of Fairfield. A stone church, a school house, and a solitary village blacksmith's establishment make up the present city. It formerly had a post office, hotel, and store, but now, Ichabod, the glory is departed! Rockville is a veritable "deserted village." It has a slight history, however, if little else, for here was the headquarters of the Suisun Indians, and indeed in this locality was the first cultivation of grain carried on. Here, too, was the anvil's music first heard from the forge of John M. Perry, who was wont to produce in those good old days, a rude ground tearer or plough at the moderately low figure of \$65.

## ELMIRA.

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*Geography*:—On May 22, 1871, it was ordered by the Board of Supervisors that a new township should be formed out of portions of Vacaville, Silveyville, and Maine Prairie townships, the boundaries being: "Beginning at the south-west corner of the south-east quarter of section No. 3, township 5 N., R. 1 W., Mount Diablo meridian and base; running thence north seven miles to the quarter-section corner on the north line of section 3, township 6 N., R. 1 W.; thence along said township line six miles; thence along quarter-section lines south seven miles."

*Topography*:—The topography of Elmira township is not hard to designate. It is that portion of the plain of Suisun valley described in the foregoing boundaries. Comparatively speaking, not an inch of it is there but what will fructify and produce; still, from its position and the want of any perennial streams, it is a matter of difficulty, in the seasons of drought, which, happily, though rare, will occur in California, to find water save by the digging of wells, and this has been done to some purpose.

*Settlement*:—The settlement of Elmira township is coeval with that of the Suisun valley. In the days when it was settled, and for many years later, Elmira was still a portion of other townships. As the increase of population made itself felt, the necessity to make a new partition arose, and thus, those who erst belonged to the adjacent townships, suddenly found themselves included in entirely new boundaries.

ELMIRA.—The thriving little town on the line of the California Pacific Railroad, formerly called Vaca Station, was renamed after the city of Elmira, in the State of New York. It is the junction of the above named railroad, which passes in a direct line through Solano county; and the Vaca Valley and Clear Lake Railroad, which, up to the present time, has thirty miles of track laid to Madison, in Yolo county, with stations, of much comfort and easy of access, at Vacaville, and Winters, on the Yolo county side of Putah creek, on the route to its terminus. Elmira is located on the south-west quarter of section 19, township 6 N., R. 1 W. The plat of the city was filed for record October 20, 1868. The site comprises about forty acres of ground, and was originally the property of Stephen Hoyt, who laid out the town in 1868.

The settlement of the county may be said to have commenced with the

location of Stephen Hoyt, Charles Pearson, and Jediah Williams in 1853. In 1854 Hazen Hoyt and Allen Van Fleet settled near the present town site, while, at much about the same time, Wellington and James Boone became settlers on what is usually known as the Hawker's place. The first crops of barley were raised by Stephen Hoyt and A. Van Fleet. Sacramento, at the time, was the principal market for the products of the township. Elmira is distant ten miles, in a north-easterly direction, from the county seat of Fairfield. The population is about 500.

The churches, and schools as well, are creditably represented; while its commercial relations are fairly prosperous, there being two stores, doing a general merchandise business, two hotels, two warehouses, a lumber yard, livery stable, and three blacksmiths' shops, as well as extensive premises, the property of both railroad companies.

In connection with the prosperity of Elmira, we should not omit to mention the name of John H. Barrett, the present County Assessor. His residence is in the town. He was the first Justice of the Peace elected for the township; has the welfare of the embryo city in his thoughts; while a community may well feel grateful at having so energetic a member in its midst.

*I. O. O. F., Elmira.*:—This Lodge was organized January 15, 1873, the first officers being: John H. Barrett, N. G.; M. D. Cooper, V. G.; L. Davidson, Recording Secretary; J. A. Collier, Treasurer.

*A. O. U. W.*:—This is a new order in the country, and had been only instituted but a short time when we made our appearance.



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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

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## VALLEJO.

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**ALVORD, LUKE**, was born in Syracuse, State of New York, on September 16, 1812, and remained in that city and neighborhood working at his trade and farming until February, 1850, when he sailed in the "Tennessee" for California, arriving in San Francisco in April, having been detained in Panama three weeks awaiting her arrival. At once went to Tuolumne county, at Wood's creek, four miles above Jacksonville, and remained there engaged in mining until July 12, 1851, when he left to return home. In February, 1853, he again left Syracuse for California, on this occasion accompanied by his family. On his arrival he went back to the mines, moving from place to place, principally in Sacramento and Amador counties, having lived for twelve years in Volcano. In 1867, he came to Sacramento city and in the following year took up his residence in Vallejo, where he has remained ever since. Is a carpenter by trade, and was foreman on the grain elevator when it was built. Mr. Alvord married at Syracuse on November 12, 1834, Miss Henrietta S. Childs of Saratoga, New York, by whom he has: Cass, born September 13, 1836; Marion, born May 9, 1840, died 1844; and Helen Burnett, born August 30, 1845, married at Volcano, 1867, Professor W. H. Tripp, of Vallejo.

**ANDERSON, M. D., WALTER DUNCAN**, was born in Tatamagonche Colchester county, Nova Scotia, April 17, 1840. At fourteen years of age he moved to Canada, where he resided for seven years, at the expiry of which he returned to Nova Scotia; thence to Boston, Massachusetts, where he studied medicine and graduated at the Harvard Medical School on March 9, 1864. Dr. Anderson practiced for three months in the Magdalen Islands, two years in Wallace, Nova Scotia, and on December 23, 1866, came to Vallejo, where he still resides. Married Mary Jane, daughter of Thomas Wallace, machinist, on 5th February, 1879.

**ASPENALL, WILLIAM**, arrived from Panama, in the ship "Harriet Rockwell," in June, 1850. On landing in San Francisco, he found letters informing him of the whereabouts of former friends and companions in arms, of the Mexican campaign, among them being Col. James M. Stuart, Postmaster of the present House of Representatives, Major Cooper and

N. K. Swope, ex-Captain of Mexican fame. Mr. Aspenall soon after started for the southern mines, and arrived in Jamestown, Tuolumne county, in July, 1850, and there engaged in mining, with some success, for two years. In 1852, the Scott-river excitement broke out and he, with five others, determined to organize themselves into a party and proceed thither. At that time, provisions were exorbitantly high. They purchased a pack train of mules, in Sacramento, consisting of fifteen head besides saddle animals, loaded them with flour, sugar and tobacco, and made a successful voyage to Trinity valley. When here, the Indians stampeded the animals belonging to the expedition, when everything was lost save two mats containing two hundred pounds of China sugar. The entire party got snowed in when crossing the Trinity mountains, being twenty-one days in working their way to the summit, which is known as the Devil's Backbone. They endured many hardships on this occasion; food was scarce; they, therefore, contented themselves with mule's flesh and sugar; yet, ultimately, arrived at Scott's river bar in time to take a hand in the Rogue-river war, which was then being carried on against the Indians; the hostilities were soon terminated on the capture of fifty squaws by Governor Joe Lane. We next find Mr. Aspenall in Oregon, on the banks of the Willamette river, where he had built himself a log cabin, but, getting weary of the solitude of the Oregonian forests, in 1852, he once more returned to California and, for a second time, proceeded to Jamestown, Tuolumne county, where he was appointed Deputy, under his friend, Sheriff Swope. In March, 1853, he was joined by his family from New Orleans, who had sustained shipwreck on their journey. In 1854, Mr. A., with others, took a prominent part in the contest which resulted in the location of the county seat of Tuolumne county, at Sonora, whereupon, he, with Charles M. Scott, ex-Member of Congress, James M. Stuart, already mentioned, and Captain Arnix, left Jamestown, the two first going to the county seat at Sonora, while the latter came to Vallejo, where they purchased some property, Arnix, after a while, giving up all his possessions, on account of faulty titles. Mr. Aspenall now erected a store in Vallejo, which was opened on June 1, 1855. It was his original intention to make this a one-storied building, but, finding a few Brother Masons in the city, he added another story to it and helped to start a Masonic Lodge in September, 1855, and the Odd Fellows' Lodge in the same building in October of that year. Was elected a Justice of the Peace, in 1856, for Vallejo Township, and, on the incorporation of the city of Vallejo by the Legislature, in 1865, Mr. Aspenall was on the first Board of Trustees. In 1874, he once more was elected to the Board of Trustees and became their President for two years, and, in 1877, was again elected a Justice of the Peace for Vallejo township, a position which he still holds.



**AYLWARD, THOMAS**, was born in Quebec, Lower Canada, where he remained till October 6, 1837, when he left for New York, arriving there in the same month, where he bound himself apprentice sailmaker with Stout & Blackledge, 144 South street. In 1846 he went to Virginia, being employed in the Gosport Navy Yard as sailmaker for five months and twenty-seven days, where he assisted in fitting out the men-of-war "Mississippi," "St. Lawrence" and "St. Mary's." Returned to New York in May, 1847, when he was dispatched in charge of some men to New London, Connecticut, where he worked for three months. He then was removed to Sag Harbor, remaining there three months, and was again changed to Greenport, Long Island, when, at the end of six weeks, he went back to New York, and shortly afterward returned to Greenport, where he stayed till November 5, 1848. It was Mr. Aylward's intention to have left Greenport on November 3d, but owing to a terrific snow-storm which prevailed he delayed his departure, and well for him that he did so, for the train which he should have traveled by was run into and more than twenty lives lost, and a large number wounded, those who escaped having done so by jumping into the snow. He remained in New York till March 12, 1849, when he sailed in the ship "Salem," owned by a stock company, who were on board, the captain, George Douglas, being part owner. Spending eighteen days in Rio de Janeiro and fifteen at Talcahuana, they arrived at San Francisco October 12, the voyage having occupied precisely seven months. The day after Mr. Aylward arrived he set to work at his trade, making as high as one hundred dollars a day, but this he was forced to relinquish on account of a neuralgic affection, which the fogs of San Francisco enhanced. He therefore got his party together, chartered a schooner and sailed for Stockton, en route for the mines. From Stockton they went to the Chinese Camp in Tuolumne County, where he remained a fortnight, and then removed to Murphy's Camp, prospecting; and, returning to Chinese Camp, took his whole party back to Murphy's, in Calaveras County, in March, 1850, and there remained until November 21, 1853, when he left for San Francisco. It was now Mr. Aylward's intention to go to the Amazon, but he did not. Several of his party started thither, however, but nearly all of them perished from cholera, in Callao. One month after returning to San Francisco he went into business as a sailmaker, on the corner of Clay and Davis streets, which he carried on till May, 1856. He then sold out, and recommenced mining operations in Oroville, Butte County, remaining there six days, when he moved to Forbestown. In October he left this district for San Francisco, and commenced working as a journeyman sailmaker, and as such continued till 1858, having occasional jobs in the Mare Island Navy Yard. In the Spring of that year he restarted on his own account, at the corner of Clark and Davis streets, remaining in business there till May,

1860, when he left his partner in charge and once more went himself to the mines, his destination being Washoe, now known as the district around Carson and Virginia Cities. Remained there till October 20, and again returned to San Francisco, remaining at his business till the Spring of 1861, when he was called to the Navy Yard at Mare Island as a journeyman sailmaker, was put in charge of the sailmakers' department in 1865, and remained in charge till the 23d of February, 1872, when he was superseded, along with fourteen others. In 1876 Mr. Aylward visited the Centennial Exhibition—his first trip to the Eastern States since he first left them in 1849. He sojourned there three months, during which he visited Missouri, Kentucky, New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Portland, Quebec, Montreal, and elsewhere, and started for California on the 13th of July, 1876. Is a member of the Society of California Pioneers, of which association he is one of the charter members; he being also a member of the Vallejo Lodge, No. 64, I. O. G. T. Mr. Aylward has made nearly all the sails for the several vessels which have been built in Vallejo.

**BERGWELL, GUSTAF**, (deceased), born in Sweden in 1810, and came to America in or about the year 1840, and to California via Panama, arriving at Monterey July 4, 1849. In that year he commenced the dry-goods business in San Francisco, which he continued up to the fire of 1851, when he moved to Sonoma, where he remained till 1855, and moved to Vallejo in the following year, where he died on July 10, 1871; since which time his mercantile affairs have been carried on by his widow. Mr. Bergwell was a member of the Vallejo Pioneer Association, being Vice-President of the society for some time. He was also a member of the Scandinavian Society of San Francisco. Married in Grace Church, in that city, April 20, 1852, Miss Laura Kamp, a native of Denmark, by whom there are two children—Jennie, born in Sonoma, February 4, 1853, married William York, April 17, 1873; and Gustaf A., born in Vallejo, July 14, 1861.

**BINGHAM, GEORGE**, was born in Philadelphia, May 1, 1820. At the age of seventeen he went to learn the trade of bookbinding, with the firm of R. P. de Silver & Co.; and the next year he shipped on board the sloop-of-war "Dale," as first-class boy, and sailed to join the Pacific squadron, of which Commodore Jones was in command. Was present at the hoisting of the American flag at Monterey in August, 1831, when the coast was taken by the United States Government, eight days after returning it to the Mexicans. Remained on the coast about two months, then sailed to Callao, where he was transferred to the "Yorktown," and proceeded to New York, where he arrived in July, 1843. From 1843 till 1846 he remained in the Eastern States, and in the latter year he volun-

teered for the war in Mexico. In December of that year left Philadelphia to join the expedition; was present at the capture of Vera Cruz, Cerro-Gordo, taking of Conteras, Cherubusco, Molino del Rey, Chapultepec, and the storming of the city of Mexico; was with the forces two years, when, on the proclaiming of peace, he returned home, where he remained until 1849, when, on May 5th, he sailed for California, and arrived in San Francisco September 15, 1849. On arrival, joined the police force on its first organization, under Malachi Fallon, John W. Geary being Alcade. Resigned in the spring of 1850, and went to the mines at Long bar, Yuba river, immediately prior to the discovery of gold in that part; remaining there one month he started for Slake creek, staying there until the Gold Lake excitement, when he proceeded thither. From there he went to Grass Valley, now American, and followed up the different ranges of mountains between the Pitt and Feather rivers to the head-waters of the latter at Goose lake, but found nothing. Returned to Nelson creek, where he struck good claims; stayed there a few day, then went to the east branch of Feather river and arrived at Rich Bar, where he remained two weeks, after which, he returned to San Francisco. Remained in that city five months, establishing himself in a saloon, but was burnt out in the fire of November, 1850. After this catastrophe he once more returned to Feather river; but, not being successful, he proceeded to Yreka, where gold diggings were found in Humbug creek. In 1851 Mr. Bingham again arrived in San Francisco, paid a visit to the Sandwich Islands; returning shortly after, he proceeded to the southern mines, in Sonora, from whence he went back to Yreka, and remained there six months, at which time the Gold-beach fever started every one in that direction, he amongst the others. In June, 1853, he found his way to Scott's bar, and, after two months, again removed to San Francisco, staying there for some time, when he once more departed for Sonora, and lived there seven years, at the end of which he returned to San Francisco, and at the outbreak of the rebellion, enlisted in the Second Cavalry, (Sacramento Rangers) in Company F, in which he remained for nine months, serving in the Provost's Guard at San Francisco, receiving his discharge there in 1862, when he came to Vallejo. From 1865 he worked for six years in the completing of the capitol at Sacramento, and returned to San Francisco, where he sojourned for one year, then locating in Vallejo in 1873. In 1876 visited the Centennial Exhibition, and finally came back to Vallejo, where he has since resided. Is a member of the Vallejo Pioneer's Association. Mr. Bingham's grandfather served in the Revolutionary war, under George Washington, and his father took part in the war of 1812. He married in the Sandwich Islands in 1850, and has one daughter, Madeline, who was born in Honolulu in 1851.



**BROOKS, WILLIAM S.**, was born in Franklin County, New York, in 1820.

When quite young he removed with his parents to New Orleans, and at twelve years of age returned to Brooklyn, New York. In 1832 shipped on board the "Henry Clay," then the largest vessel sailing out of the port of New York, and made a voyage to Liverpool, England, following a sea-faring life up to 1846, when he shipped in the United States sloop-of-war "Prebble," as convoy to Stevenson's regiment, which was then on its way to California, and arrived in San Francisco in March, 1847. The vessel lay two months in that harbor, during which time a party of eighteen men, under command of Lieutenant Lanman, afterwards Commodore, was despatched up the Carquinez straits in search of a boat reported missing, which was conveying \$80,000, or thereabouts, pay for the troops at Sutter's fort. (The boat has never since been heard of.) On the cruise, landed at what is now called Mare Island, where he remained about two weeks. On making the island, they saw two wigwams standing where the magazine and flagstaff now are, while on the Vallejo side, there was one at the foot of Main street, of to-day. Since then he has, on more than one occasion, dug up the bones of Indians who had been buried on the spot where Woods Hotel is built, on that street. On another occasion, a party landed where Starr's flour-mills are now, in South Vallejo, to shoot beef, but after killing one animal, the cattle gave chase, when they were driven back to the boat. Up till 1850 was in government employ, on board of men-of-war, during which time he visited China, Japan, and the Sandwich islands; then shipped on board the Revenue brig "Lawrence," and was wrecked in her outside the heads at the Golden Gate in 1852. Afterwards was employed in the Appraiser's store of the Custom House in San Francisco, where he remained seven years and four months, then came to the Navy Yard in Vallejo, in 1858, where he has ever since been employed. Has been Acting Gunner of the U. S. S. "Independence," guard ship at the Yard, and is now Machine Tender to the sectional docks there.

Mr. Brooks married, firstly, at San Francisco, B. M. Maguire, in 1856, (died 1858) by whom he has one son, William Charles, born 1856. Secondly, Catherine Irena Coen, married 1860, by whom he has: George T., born October 30, 1862; Mary Emma, born April 8, 1865; James C., born June 26, 1868; John, born March 26, 1870; Gertrude B., born January 26, 1873, Loretta Anna, born January 28, 1876; and Angeles Agnes, born February 18, 1878.

**BROWN, CALVIN**, Civil Engineer in charge of Department of Yards and Docks, Mare Island, a gentleman of rare attainments, was educated at Roxbury Grammar School, Mass., where he graduated in 1828. In 1834, he commenced the study of civil engineering in Boston, serving under several



of the leading engineers of the time, when, in 1841, he was appointed to the post of Civil Engineer to the United States Navy Yard at Kittery, Maine, where he remained five years, during which time he carried on the construction of the Quay wall at that place, where was first introduced into the United States the practice of blasting rocks in deep water. Thereafter he was engaged in sundry works, principally railroads, until 1852, when he was appointed Civil Engineer at the Navy Yard, Norfolk, Virginia. During his term of office of nine years at this post he superintended the erection of a large number of the buildings there, and carried on the construction of the Quay wall. In 1861 Mr. Brown was ordered from Norfolk to Mare Island, where he has been ever since, with the exception of from 1864 to 1869, when he constructed the large dam and reservoir at Pilercitos valley for the Spring Valley Water Works, and executed the surveys, designs and location of the canal and locks at the Willamette Falls, Oregon. For a portion of the time he was connected with the Board of Commissioners on the Central Pacific Railroad, and was subsequently appointed one of the Government Commissioners both on that and the Southern Pacific line of railroads.

On May 13, 1869, he was reappointed Civil Engineer to the Mare Island Navy Yard, and continues to hold the office. During his connection with the yard Mr. Brown has made most of the additions on that admirably fitted-out establishment. He has constructed a large portion of the foundry and machine shops, built the saw mill, the ordnance and the office building, one of the large timber sheds, the iron-plating shop; superintended the construction of the Marine Barracks, and was one of the superintendents, with Dr. J. M. Brown, U. S. N., of the Naval Hospital. Designed and built the stone Dry Dock, one of the largest in the world, as far as it has now progressed; superintended the construction of the new powder magazine, and also that of the reservoir, known as Lake Rogers. Not the least of the many distinctions to which Mr. Brown may lay claim is that, from under his training, several of the most distinguished engineers of the day have developed and are now a credit to their country as well as to the scientific preceptor, who labored with them during their tutelage. His family are among the oldest in the country, having come to America in the year 1632. The subject of this sketch was born at Roxbury, Mass., now known as Boston Highlands, on March 25, 1816, and married, in 1838, Miss Susan W. Sager, of that place, by whom he has now living Harriet E., born 1840; Frank E., born 1841, and Wilfrid L., born 1846.

**BROWN, SAMUEL**, born in Ireland in 1826, and came to the United States in 1843, first settling in New York city, where he remained until 1856, when he came to Vallejo. Followed the sea from 1843 till 1856, but on

coming to California he engaged in farming, and in May, 1870, he opened his present meat market, on Virginia street, in Vallejo. Married in New Orleans, 1854, Catharine Morris, a native of Ireland, by whom he has Mary M., Robert H., Samuel J., Martha M., and Catharine.

**BROWNLIE, ALEXANDER J.**, was born in the State of Arkansas, October 3, 1851. Accompanied his parents to California in 1852, being the first white child to arrive in Vallejo. Was educated in the public schools of that city. Is now a civil engineer in the employ of the Navy Yard at Mare Island, where he has been continuously engaged for thirteen years. Was appointed City Clerk, April, 1878. Is a member of the I. O. O. F. Golden State Lodge and Mount Moriah Encampment, also Vallejo Lodge, No. 64, I. O. G. T., and takes a prominent interest in all matters of public benefit to Vallejo and its community.

**BROWNLIE, JAMES**, Grocer of Vallejo, was born in the villiage of Carluke, in Lanarkshire, Scotland, on the 15th day of August, 1836. In 1858 he left his native shores for California, arriving in the month of July of that year, when he settled in Vallejo, but shortly after removed to Benicia, where he was employed by the Pacific Mail Co. to repair the old steamship "Oregon." After three months he started for the Klamath river, in Humboldt county, and engaged in mining, but in four months returned to Vallejo, and worked at his trade, that of carpenter and joiner, which he continued until 1869, when he established his present business. In March, 1869, Mr. Brownlie married Miss Mary Howie, the daughter of Peter McMillen, of Campbelltown, Scotland, having issue one son, John Alexander.

**BROWLIE, JOHN**, is a native of Scotland, and passed his early years in that part of Great Britain, where he was apprenticed for some time to the grocery trade, in Glasgow. On October 7, 1852, with some of his relations who had revisited the "land o' cakes," he sailed from Liverpool in a Cunard steamer for New York, where he remained a short time, and then took passage for California in the S. S. "Northern Light," but was landed at Acapulco, from whence he proceeded to Barbacos; thence up the river by native boat to Gorgona, from which place he performed the balance of the journey on foot to Panama. The hardships of this walk were trying to our youthful voyager; when but halfway his boots gave out and were discarded; in crossing the rivers he held on to the tails of mules, and was thus ferried over; and on the next day completely prostrated, he and his party, with whom he had caught up, reached their destination, only to find that their steamer for San Francisco, for which they had tickets, had been burned in Valparaiso. The "Cortez" was on



L. L. Palmer





the berth for California, but she was full; a passage, could not, therefore, be procured by her; thus, in the meantime, with so large a party, money gave out, and he was obliged to dispose of his through ticket, so as to provide the means of subsistence for the company, and rely on the promise that money should be remitted to him from California. Shortly after his companions sailed for the Golden State, leaving the subject of our memoir alone, moneyless, and friendless, in Panama. With that resource which the hardy sons of Scotia derive from their early training, Mr. Brownlie cast about him looking for employment, whereby to occupy his time, and provide food; this he soon obtained in the Louisiana hotel, at the wages of sixty dollars per month; but such is the fatal effects of the climate that but few live to see the month out. While at his avocation in this hostelry, he was prostrated by a swelling of the feet from *jiggers*, contracted during his bare-foot tramp across the Isthmus, to add to which he was seized with the Panama fever, but stoutly refused to be taken to the hospital; day by day he got lower, when an event occurred which may have done much towards preserving the life of John Brownlie. Let us tell it in his own words: "It was a Sunday morning, when, by luck, who should come to my relief, but an uncle—one whom I had not seen since I was a child. Of course, I did not know him, nor he me, until he asked after my parents, and his brothers and sisters. I was so charmed that I jumped right out of my sick bed. He asked how I came to be at Panama, and how I came to be left by the party; after explaining which, he told me that he had just bought a ticket for California, and if I wanted to get there he would give it to me, while he returned to Toboga (where he had been working for some time), to earn enough to pay his passage by another steamer." Thus, by the merest chance, at noon on the day on which he parted with his new-found relative, Mr. Brownlie steamed away from Panama on board the "Winfield Scott," bound for San Francisco. On this voyage he again endured much suffering, and though many of his fellow-passengers died, he lived, happily, to arrive at his destination, after a passage of eighteen days.

On arrival, he fortunately met his uncle, Robert Brownlee, and with him went to Vallejo, arriving when the Legislature was about to meet and at once obtained work there; on the removal of the seat of government to Benicia, he followed them, and being employed in that city for a short time, he finally went to Mare Island and obtained labor with the Dry Dock Company, who were then constructing the sectional dock; from laboring work he rose to be a helper in the blacksmith's shop, and, being of an economical turn of mind, he soon purchased a share in a livery business; after a lapse of some time he eventually became the sole proprietor, and has ever since kept a stable in Vallejo. In 1858, in conjunction with his livery business, Mr. B. purchased a farm of 500 acres,

and matters progressed favorably for him until the year 1873, when, being connected with the Vallejo Bank, he was forced into the position of Cashier of that concern by the Directors and Stockholders; but such was the revulsion in business at the time that the Bank was wound up, and all creditors satisfied. Mr. Brownlie visited his native land, in the years 1857, and '67, and made the tour of the three kingdoms; has served as a Notary Public for two years; a Supervisor for one term; and is now besides his above mentioned business, a real estate agent; and also agent for a Fire and Life Insurance Company. Mr. B. was born in the year 1833, and married, December 22, 1874, Miss Margaret Wakely, by whom he has Gracie May, born October 16, 1875, and Robert Arthur, born Nov. 11, 1878.

**BROWNLEE, ROBERT**, emigrated to America in the year 1836, and settled in the city of New York, where he sojourned four months, working at his trade of stone cutter. In September of that year he proceeded to North Carolina, and was employed for thirteen months in the capital of that State; at the expiration of which he moved to Arkansas, arriving in Little Rock on Christmas day, 1837. He there prosecuted his calling for four years, working on the Capitol and State Bank, when he embarked in the cultivation of land. In 1848 he retired from the occupation of farming, and commenced prospecting for lead, getting blown up during this employment. Mr. Brownlee was a resident of the State of Arkansas altogether thirteen years. In 1849 the world was set agog by the discovery of gold in California, and he was one of the many hardy sons of toil who crossed the plains, enduring all its hardships, hoping occasionally against hope, and putting aside any knowledge of fear; laboring incessantly to buoy up those who were bordering on despair, allaying the woes of the suffering and cheering the despondent. In this year, after a journey occupying six months and a half, coming by way of Santa Fe, this band crossed the Colorado river in the latter end of August and entered California, the land of promise, on the first day of September, 1849. For days before this event, water with them had been, scarce, the canteens which they wore slung over their shoulders being nearly empty; at last, however, pools of water were discovered, and he, riding at the head of the cavalcade, was the first to lave his parched throat with the wearily looked for liquid. Dipping his pan deep into the pool, to procure the water in its coolest state, he found it on drinking to be potently charged with alkali; to resort to the first rude method of counteraction, namely, the eating of quantities of fat pork, was the work of a moment, and he recovered; not so two of the others, who, even when cautioned, recklessly partook of the beverage, both dying in great suffering on the evening of the same day. They were buried by their comrades, while one of the

number, gifted above his fellows with the power of speech, offered up a prayer at their graves, which, for impressive eloquence, Mr. B. asserts he has never heard equalled. From the oldest to the youngest there was not a dry cheek. Let us now follow the fortunes of Mr. Brownlee. He arrived in Mariposa county in the first rains. He labored in the mines for six days, in the first hour and a half of which he dug up eighty dollars worth of ore, his only implements being his jack-knife and tin pan. This was in October, 1849. With this sum he entered into partnership with John W. Clarke of Vermont, who had also been moderately lucky, purchased a team of six pack-mules, and commenced what is known as a "packing" business, between Stockton and Ajuafria, two towns, one hundred miles apart. The first trip took these two pioneers some six weeks to accomplish. The roads were so bad from the excessive rains that the hardships endured were sufficient to deter men of less perseverance; always at their destination, however, such matters were treated lightly, for, after all, their business prospered, and miners *would* pay a dollar and a quarter per pound for tea and flour, while other necessaries commanded as high a price. Mr. Brownlee thus describes some of his experiences on this eventful first trip. On leaving the Stanislaus River, an eight-mule team, drawing a boiler, was come up with, but such was the deplorable state of the roads that mules, boiler and truck had sunk into the mud, nothing being left to view but the heads of three mules and the highest point of the boiler. Here was a fix! What was to be done? Quick of resources, desperation lending wit to native acumen, the teamsters incontinently drove their animals on to the boiler, from which perch they daintily picked their steps on to the backs of their less fortunate brethren, one after the other, until once more *terru firma* was regained. There were four of these adventurers—James McVicar, Mr. B., his partner, and a negro. During a blinding snow storm they proceeded onwards; and arrived at Dry Creek, where each mule had to be repacked, the cargo having shifted, on account of the many slips and falls which the quadrupeds had sustained. On relieving them of their burdens and placing the sacks of flour on the clay, the first two tiers sank out of sight, causing no inconsiderable damage. There was not the wherewithal to build a fire whereby food might be prepared, so they supped on flour, mixed with water, and raw fat pork; cold and hungry, they lay on the saddle blankets, striving to wheedle the gentle goddess—the four of them—Mr. Brownlee next to the negro. During the night the snow and sleet ceased, and a hard frost set in, making the cold intense. The water in a pair of long boots, the property of the darkey, froze to a solid mass, which was not perceived until he had tried to put them on; but, whether on account of the size of his feet or the frigidity and rigidity of the ice, they would not be coaxed into their proper resting place till thawed by the



water of a convenient stream. The morning, however, lent a brighter aspect to the state of things, for daylight showed where fuel was to be obtained, a hearty meal was made off coffee and flapjacks, which they enjoyed, for, on the principle of hunger being the best sauce, MeV. would, now and again, observe, "Eh, man, Bob, but aren't they good!" On the following day the Tuolumne River was gained, in another snow storm, they camping in a "wash" of the river. This night a splendid fire was built. Three large trees, which were lying in the bed of the now dry stream, were piled over with brush and set alight, while the banks gave shelter from the driving sleet and snow; and comparative comfort, with a certain amount of satisfaction, was being taken out of the burning mass of timber, some forty feet in length. Of a sudden, without the slightest warning, their gigantic hearth was seen to float away; the water rose with incredible speed, so that they were wet to their waists while securing their packs. At length all was made snug, and the quartette, climbing up to the fork of a tree, out of the reach of the now rushing stream, in the driving snow, philosophically awaited the dawn of day. Of such were the hardships endured on this memorable journey.

In the spring of the year 1850, the subject of our memoir established a store, having a mule team in connection therewith. The former combined all the mining luxuries of a boarding-house, ten-pin alley and card-room, as well as the agency for Adams' Express. At the time when the first snow fell, Mr. B. found himself with a large accumulation of staple goods for which there would be a ready market; he therefore turned out his animals to pasture on what was known as the Texine ranch, when on one day he was informed that a force of Indians had been seen driving them off. This was a cause of the hastening of another Mariposa war. On the receipt of this intelligence Major Burney, then Sheriff of the county, raised a company of twenty-two volunteers started in pursuit, and overtaking the Indians engaged them for three or four hours, when they fled leaving behind them partially eaten portions of the beasts which had been cooked between the time of their capture and the conflict. At this juncture the war had assumed proportions which were likely to develop. The Major, therefore, appealed to Governor Burnett at San Jose for aid, when he despatched Neely Johnson to organize three companies of militia in Mariposa county, Mr. Brownlee being sutler of the battalion, and as such he found himself possessed of a large amount of scrip, paid to him by the force, which he wished to have recognized by the officers of the State. To gain this was the object of his first visit to Vallejo in 1851, on which occasion he remained only two months, returning to Mariposa county, and thereafter visited Sacramento in 1852 on the same errand, after which he once more went back to Mariposa, wound up his affairs and started to return to Scotland, but having missed the steamer



from San Francisco to Panama, he remained for three weeks in Vallejo. On the 1st day of March, 1852, Mr. Brownlee sailed from San Francisco, visiting en route Arkansas and Kentucky, where he met his wife, went to Scotland, but in two months from his arrival, having visited a few of the most noteworthy places in his native land, once more turned towards the United States and landed in New York, where he was married soon after his arrival. In October, 1852, we find Mr. Brownlee on his second voyage to California, on this occasion accompanied by his bride and his brother, his wife and son, traversing the route, not by the plains as he had done three years before, but by the more pleasant and swifter one of Panama, arriving in San Francisco in the end of November, and having pleasant recollections of Vallejo, immediately thereafter proceeded thither, where both families located in December, 1852. Early in the next year he commenced farming and a dairy business on a small scale, purchased a tract of fifty acres of land two miles north of the town limits, which he afterwards exchanged with General John B. Frisbie, in 1857 for his present place, now in Napa county, but which was then in that of Solano. Since his arrival, up to the present time, Mr. Brownlee has been inseparably connected with Vallejo and its associations, and though he does not reside in the county, he is still spoken of by all as the most reliable source of information in regard to the doings in early days. His residence is a magnificent two-storied building, having rooms of fine proportions, situated about fourteen miles from Vallejo; he farms over 1,100 acres of land, 650 being in Solano county, while this season he has under wheat and barley no less than 1,100 acres. The line of railroad to Sacramento from South Vallejo passes his gate, while there is an averagely good road to his dwelling. A more genial companion, a better citizen or hospitable host does not exist than Robert Brownlee. He was born at Bunkle, in the parish of Cambusnethen, in the county of Lanark, Scotland, in 1813, married Annie Lamont October 24, 1852, born in Tamhorn, in the Carse O'Gowrie, Perthshire, Scotland, in 1834, by whom he has Robert A., born October 14, 1853, (the first white boy born in Vallejo); Mary J., born August 1, 1855; Margaret R., born June 4, 1857; Gracie A., born July 10, 1862; George, born February 23, 1864; William, born November 25, 1866, died March 17, 1868; and Frederick J., born August 19, 1870.

**BROWNLEE, THOMAS**, was born in Cambusnethan, Lanarkshire, Scotland, in the year 1816, where he remained until the year 1842 when he emigrated to America and settled in the State of Arkansas. In the year 1846 he enlisted in the Arkansas Regiment, under command of Colonel Yell, and with it served in the Mexican war for one year, being present at the engagement at Buena Vista. On the expiration of his service he

returned to Arkansas and there remained till 1852 when he came to California, and was in that year among the very first to settle in Vallejo where he was the original blacksmith of this now thriving city. Is a charter member of the Benicia Lodge of F. and A. M., being one of the few originators of that lodge who are now living; is also a charter member of the Masters Lodge of F. and A. M. of Vallejo. Married June 29, 1849, Mary Lamont, by whom he has Alexander J., Annie, and John.

**BUTLER, O. H.**, was born in Utica, N. Y., in May, 1829, and there remained until 1833, when, with his parents, he moved to Michigan, residing there until 1842. In this year he went to Illinois, and worked at his trade of a mason at Chicago, Bloomington, Peoria, and finally settled there. In 1855 he moved to Livingston county, Mo., where he resided until 1862, when he crossed the Plains to California, and settled at Woodland, Yolo county, and there established a brick-yard, combining this business with that of a contractor. At the end of two years he moved to Santa Rosa, Sonoma county, and there erected a flour mill, with water power, on Markwest creek. This enterprise he conducted for five years, when, in 1869, he sold his property and came to Vallejo, where he has since resided. Was appointed Quarterman-mason on the Navy Yard at Mare Island, July 22, 1872, and is still employed there. He married July 22, 1851, Julia A. Michael, of Bloomington, Ills.

**CALENDER, JOHN**, was born in Bucks county, Pa., November 16, 1822, and after two years residence here he, with parents, moved to Philadelphia, where he learned the carpenters' and joiners' trade, following that occupation until March 19, 1852, when he started for California, arriving in San Francisco on the 13th day of August following. Having brought his carpenters' tools with him, he work in the city for one month, when he came to Vallejo on the ship "Empire," it being the same he crossed the ocean on to San Francisco. We record his arrival here on September 13, 1852. There being no house in which he could live he had to remain on the boat until a temporary dwelling was erected on Mare Island, in which he lived until the Navy Yard was established there by the Government, when he moved on the Vallejo side, and, in company with John North, opened the Central House, but continued working at his trade. In 1859 he commenced the livery business, and in 1864 established the undertakers' trade, both of which he has followed to the present time. Married Catherine Fraser, daughter of James P. Fraser, a native of Philadelphia, Pa. They were married in Vallejo, September, 1858. They have had three children, all of which are deceased. Mr. C. has served two terms as Supervisor, and in 1871 ran for Sheriff and was only beaten by 653 votes, which was owing to the "tape-worm ticket."

**CARMAN, A. S.**, is a native of the province of New Brunswick, where he was born on September 7, 1849. Entered a mercantile and ship-building firm at the age of fourteen, and, after remaining there two years, entered the employment of a mercantile, ship-building, and grindstone manufacturing company, where he continued for one year, when he left for California, arriving there in September, 1867, and entered into the lumber business with Houghton & Lee, of Vallejo. Afterwards was engaged by the firm of Doe & Moore, of South Vallejo, as salesman and later as bookkeeper, who having sold out to Pope & Talbot, he was appointed manager to the new firm, a position which he still occupies. Married in November, 1876, to Miss Estelle Davenport, of Monterey, a native of Michigan, and has one son.

**COLHOUN, EDMUND R., U. S. N.**, Commandant Mare Island Navy Yard, was born in Pennsylvania, May 6, 1821; appointed midshipman from Missouri, April 1, 1839; attached to sloop "Marion," Brazil Squadron, 1839-41; frigate "Congress," Mediterranean and Brazil Squadrons, 1842-44; Naval School, Philadelphia, 1845; promoted to passed Midshipman, July 2, 1845; frigate "Cumberland," Home Squadron, 1846-47. Commodore Colhoun took part in the Mexican war, being present at the first attack on Alvarado, under Commodore Connor, and that at Tabasco, under Commodore Perry, which resulted in its capture. Served as passed Midshipman on board the armed prize schooner "Novata"; attached to the receiving ship "Philadelphia," 1850-51; frigate "St. Lawrence," Pacific Squadron, 1851-53; resigned, June 27, 1853. Re-entered the service as Acting Lieutenant in 1861; commanded steamers "Shawsheen" and "Hunchback," North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, 1861-62. Was present at and took part in the following engagements: Battle of Roanoke Island, February 7 and 8, 1862; capture of Newbern, March 14, 1862; engagements on the Blackwater river, below Franklin, Virginia, October, 1862; received his commission as Commander November 17, 1862; commanded steamer "Ladona," North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, 1863; commanding monitor "Weehawken," South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, 1863; was present at the different actions with Forts Sumter, Wagner, Beauregard, etc., from July 10 to September 15, 1863; commanded the monitor "Saugas," North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, 1864-65; engaged Howlett's Battery on James river, June 21, and again on December 5, 1864; took part in the bombardment of Fort Fisher, December 25, 1864, and the different engagements therewith until its capture on January 15, 1865; was on special duty at New York, 1866; Fleet Captain, South Pacific Squadron, 1866-67, and commissioned as Captain 1869; commanded iron clad "Dictator" 1869-70; appointed in 1873 to command the flag-ship "Hartford," on the Asiatic Station;



was in command of that Station four months, when he was transferred to the "Richmond" flag-ship, on the South Pacific Station, where he served from August, 1874, to July, 1875. The Commodore's next official duties were in connection with the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, where he was three months, when he was placed on the Examining Board at Washington, serving on it for six months. Promoted to the rank of Commodore April 26, 1876, and, having been appointed to Mare Island Navy Yard, he relieved Admiral Rodgers of the command April 17, 1877. Commodore Colhoun is married and has a family.

**CONDON, JAMES**, born in Ireland, in 1826, and came to America in 1848, first settling in New York. In 1855, he came to California and located at Sacramento, engaging in the nursery business in connection with A. B. Smith, whose agent he was until 1862. In that year he went back to the Eastern States, returning to California in 1864, and once more settled in Sacramento, where he stayed four years, after which he engaged in farming in Yolo county, and remained there until he took the management of the White Sulphur Springs near Vallejo, where he now resides. In 1855, he married, in New York, Miss Rose Maclean.

**CONNOLLY, HENRY**, was born in 1826, in the county of Fermanagh, Ireland, from whence he emigrated to the United States in 1846, and settled in New York city, remaining there till 1853, when he left for California and settled in San Francisco. In 1857, he removed to Vallejo, where he commenced business in the Washington Hotel, which he carried on for many years and which property he still owns. In connection therewith, he opened a livery business in 1859, which he still continues. Mr. Connolly also opened a wholesale wine and liquor store in 1875. He married Catharine Elliott in 1853, who was born in county Fermanagh in 1826.

**DARE, JOHN T.**, is a native of Brook Haven, Long Island, New York, and born March 27, 1843. Here he was educated in the common schools, and, at the age of thirteen, went to sea as a cabin boy, going up through all the different grades to that of first mate. This occupation he followed eight years. In May, 1861, he arrived in San Francisco on the ship "W. L. Richardson," being second in command of that craft, but left her on his arrival and shipped for the South Sea Islands and return. In 1862, went to Shoalwater Bay, oystering, returning the same year with a large number of oysters, planting them in San Pablo bay; but the high water in the Winter of 1862-3 destroyed them. The following year, read law with C. Greenwich Howard, of San Francisco. About the time of the El Dorado Canyon or Colorado river gold excitement, he went to that



locality and, after experiencing the changeable fortunes incident to a miner, he returned and settled in Los Angeles, and was engaged in driving team for other parties. Next we find him in the employ of the Government, under Major Morris, at Drum Barracks, running trains across the desert. During Brigadier General John S. Mason's expedition through Arizona Territory, Mr. Dare accompanied them as master of transportation. After making a complete tour of the Territory, he selected Prescott, in the Territory, as a place of residence; here he established the first pony express from Prescott to California, via Fort Mojave, riding the pony himself, without escort, through bands of hostile Indians, for six months; then run a wagon train from Prescott to Colorado river. In 1867, he was elected to the lower house of the Arizona Legislature, and was the framer of several bills which still are a part of the laws of that country. Soon after the expiration of his office, the large wagon train he was then running, was captured and destroyed by Indians, his train-master losing his life in the battle. Becoming disgusted with the country on account of the hostilities of the savages, he returned to California, settling in Vallejo, in 1868. Here he worked at various occupations, then a freight clerk in the office of Cal. P. R. R., and eighteen months thereafter was A. D. Starr & Co.'s cashier and book-keeper. In the Fall of 1877, he was elected to the lower house of the State Legislature, doing the State excellent service in framing and working through the Bank Commission Bill, also the Fish and Game bills, and a strong advocate of the Postal Savings Bank bill. He has made a continuous residence in south Vallejo since his coming in 1868, and is now one of its business men. Married in this place Miss Anetta, eldest daughter of George H. Martin, of Albany, New York, on January 18, 1872, their children are Ellen S., Starr D. and Edith.

**DEININGER, F.**, born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1832. In 1856, came to America and settled in San Francisco, where he remained but a short time, then removed to Los Angeles where he engaged in the brewery business. In the Summer of 1857, he established a brewery at Long Bar, Yolo county, and the same time commenced farming on a large scale nine miles from Marysville. In 1866, he moved to Meadow Lake, Nevada county, and opened a brewery there, which he continued until 1870, when he established a like undertaking in Vallejo, in which city he now resides. Married at Marysville, in 1858, Madelina Young, by whom he has : Jessie, Louisa, Daisy, Jacob, Mary, Lena, Maggie and Rose.

**DERWIN, MICHAEL S.**, was born in County Galway, Ireland, in 1812, and resided there till 1834, when he emigrated to America, first settling in Philadelphia. In 1837 he went to the Florida war, being connected with the quartermasters' department, and leaving there, came to New

York in March, 1841, proceeding thereafter to Philadelphia. In that city he embarked in a grocery business, which he continued till 1848, when he moved to New Orleans, where he lived till 1852, in which year he left for California, via Panama, arriving in San Francisco on February 28th of that year. In March he paid a flying visit to Vallejo, and thence proceeded to Stockton, from which place he went to the mines in Tuolumne County, where he engaged in mining for one year. At the end of that period he returned to San Francisco and began draying, which business he prosecuted for eight months. In the latter part of the year 1853 he returned to Philadelphia and then to New York, in which city he started the wholesale and retail liquor trade. In July, 1854, he once more turned towards the Golden State, arriving in San Francisco in August, and took up his abode there until January, 1855, when he moved to Vallejo and located in that city, and was employed for fifteen months in the Navy Yard at Mare Island. In 1856 he started for the mines in Oregon, sojourning there for one year and a half, at the expiration of which he came back to Vallejo, where he has since resided. In 1870 Mr. Derwin visited his friends in Philadelphia, and having returned to Vallejo, embarked in the grocery business. Mr. D. is a member of the firm of Derwin & McCudden, is married, and has a family.

**DOYLE, JAMES**, born in Montreal, Canada, December 25, 1828, and resided there till 1846, when he went to New York City, and on April 1, 1852, sailed from there on the ship "North America," for California, arriving in San Francisco September 1 of that year. Remained in that city till 1855, and then proceeded to Vallejo, where he has since remained a permanent resident. Mr. Doyle started the Pioneer Marble Works in Vallejo in 1862, which he still owns, and was elected Constable for the Township of Vallejo on September 5, 1877, and commenced his official duties in the month of March following. He married in New York, December 25, 1849, Anna Fleury, by whom he has Sarah A., Thomas, Mary E., Addie, Jonas, Robert E., Annie, Elizabeth, Charles and Gertrude.

**DRAKE, SIMON S.**, farmer, Section 16, post-office, Vallejo; was born in Chichester, New Hampshire, September 15, 1831, and remained there till 1848, but did not leave the State till the Spring of 1854, when he moved to Fillmore County, Minnesota, there engaging in general merchandising, pre-empting land, and farming, until the early part of 1857, when he returned to the Eastern States and settled in Massachusetts, but remained there only two years. On January 6, 1859, he sailed from New York, via Panama, arriving in San Francisco in February, and immediately went to Sacramento, and there worked on a dairy farm till the following September, when he proceeded to South San Francisco and entered the employ-

ment of John J. Haley, then proprietor of the International Hotel. In the Spring of 1860 he moved to Contra Costa County, and rented a farm from Victor Castro, but in the following Spring he left that portion of the country and sought employment in the Mare Island Navy Yard, in the plumbers' department. Leaving Mare Island in the Fall of that year, he proceeded to Idaho Territory, and commenced mining on Newsom Creek, which he prosecuted till November, 1862, keeping also a miners' store, when, at that date, he once more returned to San Francisco. In February of the following year Mr. Drake proceeded to Austin, Nevada, and was employed as engineer at different mills till 1865, when, on February 10th, he once more went to San Francisco, from which city he proceeded to his home in the East, on the 15th of the month. While at Lynn, Massachusetts, he engaged with his brothers in the grocery and provision business, which he continued till April, 1866, when he left for Minnesota, and from thence went to Kansas City, Missouri, arriving there July 4, 1866. He next proceeded to Ray County, Missouri, where he worked as an engineer for two years. On October 7th, 1868, he was married to Miss Mirza C. Craven, and soon after left for California, but after a few months returned to Missouri for his wife, coming back to California in November, 1869, and settled on his present farm of 360 acres. Mr. Drake is a member of the Grangers, as well as of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He has by his wife three children—Walter Frank, born in Ray County, Missouri, September 18, 1869; Harry Clyde, born April 14, 1871, at Vallejo; and Joey Howard, born September 23, 1872.

**EDWARDS, WILLIAM P.**, was born in London, England, on July 8, 1821, and in 1837 came to New York, to which place his father had preceded him. Was employed in different mercantile houses in New York and Philadelphia until May 5, 1849, when he set sail from the latter city in the bark "Ralph Cross" for San Francisco, where he arrived November 5, of the same year. Mr. Edwards had brought with him a machine for cutting shingles, which he erected on what was known as the Widow Reed's Ranch, in Marin county, but he was forced, after giving it a trial, to succumb to the want of experience in this particular industry. Mr. Edwards thereafter went to the Middle Fork of the Yuba River, to a place called Snow Camp, in the summer of 1850, but returned to San Francisco in the fall of the same year, and after a time engaged in mercantile pursuits, which he continued until 1865, when he settled in Vallejo. Has been Secretary of the Association of California Pioneers since its formation, with the exception of two terms, he is also a member of Vallejo Lodge No. 64, I. O. G. T.

**EGERY, B. D.**, of the firm of Egery & Lamont, was born in Penobscot county, Maine, on December 12, 1838, remaining there until 1859, when he came to California. First engaged in mining in Butte county, removing therefrom one year after, when he removed to Chico, and from there to San Francisco, from whence he went to Owen's river, where he again engaged in mining. In the fall of 1863 he obtained employment as a clerk in San Francisco, at which he remained until January, 1867, when he left for Vallejo and opened a grocery, fruit and provision store, which was destroyed by fire in the following June. He then became a clerk with E. T. Starr. In September, 1869, he entered into partnership with John E. Williston, whose interest his present partner purchased in September, 1870, when the firm of Egery & Lamont was started. Mr. Egery married November 24, 1871, Miss Carrie G. Lambert, a native of Philadelphia, who was born in 1846, by whom he has Lambert D., John A., Benjamin C., and Eugene.

**FARNHAM, JOHN**, Clothing, Gents' Furnishing Goods, Trunks and Valises. The subject of this sketch was born in Bucksport, Maine, in 1840, and in 1860 took to the sea as a profession, which he followed for four years. In the natural course of his calling he arrived in San Francisco in 1863, and proceeding to Mare Island he at once obtained employment in the Navy Yard. In 1867 he returned to his native town and engaged in the hardware business, under the style and firm of S. A. & J. Farnham. In 1868 he disposed of his interest in that firm and once more returning to California came to Vallejo and established his present business, under the name of Farnham & Voorhees, which partnership continued until the year 1871, since when he has been alone. Mr. F. has also a dry goods business in Salem, Oregon. Vallejo has few more public spirited citizens than John Farnham. In 1877 he was elected to fill the chair of the Republican County Committee; again in 1878 the like honor was conferred upon him, and, never being behind-hand where duty in the public interest is demanded, he has served on the Board of Education, and filled other responsible offices. In 1868 Mr. Farnham married Mary L., daughter of Andrew J. Ketcham, of Brandon, Vt., who was born in 1841. In this connection an episode occurred which may here be mentioned: When returning home, in 1867, the "Santiago de Cuba," the steamer on which he had taken passage, was wrecked on the coast of New Jersey, near the city of Atlantic; seven of the passengers were drowned, but Mr. Farnham, at the imminent risk of his own life, succeeded in saving that of Miss Ketcham, the young lady whom a year later he made his bride. The union so romantically forecast has been blessed by three children, John W., Frank B., and Mary Louise.



**FORSTENFELD, M.**, was born in Germany in the year 1841, and came to America in March 1855, and settled in New York, where he remained till 1861, at which time he came to California and first resided in San Francisco, remaining there until 1863, and then removed to Vallejo. In July, 1875, he entered into partnership with Jacob Steffen, in keeping a meat market, which business they still continue. He married in Vallejo, in September, 1867, Miss Lizzie Snider, a native of New Orleans, who was born February 9, 1852.

**FRISBIE, ELEAZER**, was born in Albany, N. Y., in 1829, and remained there until September, 1846, when he sailed for California with Stevenson's Regiment, arriving in San Francisco in March, 1847. Was quartered in that city till the spring of 1848, when he accompanied a detachment of his regiment to the mines to look for deserters, of whom there were a number. This service occupied two months. The force was embarked on a government schooner, which took ten days to reach Sutter's Fort (Sacramento) from San Francisco. On the return they took some Government horses, and drove them to the city, after which Mr. Frisbie was taken ill with a fever, from the effects of which he did not recover for a whole year. In 1848 the regiment was disbanded. He then, by the advice of his physician, proceeded to Sonoma for the benefit of his health, and, after recovering, opened a store in that city, remaining there until 1850, when he removed to Benicia, and carried on a butchery business, shipping meat to San Francisco for two years. About this time the city of Vallejo was started, he therefore moved thither. In 1854 Mr. Frisbie was elected a Justice of the Peace, served as an Associate Justice, and was the first regularly appointed postmaster for the city of Vallejo, an office he held from 1855 to 1857. Mr. F. resided continuously in Vallejo, from 1851 to 1865, when he removed to Russian River Township, Sonoma county, Cal., and there lived till the fall of 1870, being, for that period, engaged in farming. In that year he returned to Vallejo, and was employed by the Cal. P. R. R. Co. as wood agent. In 1872 was in the employment of the Vallejo Land and Improvement, and Vallejo Gaslight Companies, as collector, till Nov., 1875. In February, 1876, he commenced a dairy business, at Point Farm, one mile from South Vallejo, which he still carries on, shipping large quantities of milk to San Francisco daily, as well as supplying the surrounding district. Mr. Frisbie married at Fairmount, N. J., June 25, 1858, Carrie E. Klink, of Syracuse, N. Y., by whom he has seven children living: John B.; Steven H.; Cynthia J.; Phoebe A.; Edward E.; Carrie E.; Alice K.

**FRISBIE, JOHN B.**, the second son of Eleazer B. Frisbie and Cynthia Cornell Frisbie was born at Albany, N. Y., on the 20th day of May A. D.

1823, and after having finished his academic course of study at the Albany Academy, entered the law office of District Attorney Wheaton one of the ablest lawyers at the New York Bar; with whom he remained for four years or until he was of legal age and admitted to practice in the courts of the State of New York. He immediately took a prominent position in the politics of the State, and received, for a young man, a large patronage and remunerative business; after some two years of close attention and continued study, having somewhat of a martial spirit, he was elected Captain of the Van Rensselaer Guards, acknowledged to be the best drilled and finest looking independent company of the State. At this time, 1846, war existed with Mexico, and a number of the officers and privates of this corps being desirous to enter the army in the campaign against Mexico, Captain Frisbie joined them and recruiting a full company in the city of Albany, he attached it as Company I to the regiment of Col. Jonathan D. Stevenson, then at Governor's Island and about to sail for the then distant Province of California. The regiment arrived after a six months passage at San Francisco, then nothing more than a little hamlet situated in a little cove of the harbor and called "Yerba Buena." This was in March, 1847, and the regiment continued in service until disbanded after the close of the war in July, 1848. Capt. Frisbie then immediately engaged in business with Gen. Vallejo and occupied himself in the management of that gentleman's extensive estate, and in projecting great public improvements at both the cities of Benicia and Vallejo. To secure the location of the Mare Island Navy Yard at Vallejo he purchased the island from Victor Castro and obtaining from Commodore Appleton P. Jones and Gen. Persifer F. Smith and other influential gentlemen a favorable report for that locality. The government made it the United States Naval Station of the Pacific. Not satisfied with the achievement to advance the interests of the new city, with indomitable will he set to work to open up railroad communications with the interior of the State and inaugurated the California Pacific to connect the cities of Marysville and Sacramento with Vallejo. This road was speedily built and for a time gave a marked impetus to the growth and importance of the town. The population rapidly increased, fine wharves and warehouses were built and it speedily became the great shipping port for the whole of the northern portion of the State. Branches or feeders to the main line were then projected to tap the valleys of Napa and Sonoma and the Russian river country, but the immense expenditures consequent upon the prosecution of these improvements so embarrassed the original company that they were compelled to succumb, and the road and its property fell into the hands of a rival company, whose business interests were antagonistic to the growth of the little city; as a consequence Vallejo soon lost its prestige of becoming a

great commercial city, and in its decline carried ruin to its projectors and disappointment to all interested in its welfare. But Gen. Frisbie was not the man to yield to mere temporary embarrassment and fortunately at this time (our relations with the neighboring republic of Mexico being in a critical condition) he was called to Washington to confer with the authorities, and was dispatched by the President and Secretary of State to the city of Mexico. As the result of his mission amicable relations were established between the two countries, and the President, Gen. Diaz, recognized by our government. But Gen. Frisbie during his residence in the city of Mexico became so captivated with the country and was so generously treated by its people that he determined to make it his future home and he removed his family to Buena Vista, a beautiful suburb of the city of Mexico, and is now engaged in developing some very rich mines in the Real del Monte district some sixty miles from the capital. It will thus be seen Gen. Frisbie has always been pre-eminently a public spirited man, of great energy, enterprise, and of unbounded hospitality and in all public positions was ever regarded as the peer of the ablest men among all the pioneers of the golden State.

**FRISBIE, LEVI C.**, the elder son of Eleazer B. Frisbie and Cynthia Cornell Frisbie, was born in the city of Albany, N. Y., on the 1st day of May A. D. 1821; after a preliminary course of education in his native city, he completed his academic term in the Buffalo Academy and commenced the study of medicine in the office of Dr. William Bry and surgery with Dr. Alden March in the year 1837, and graduated at the Albany Medical College February 23, 1841. Immediately after receiving his diploma he commenced practice with his old preceptor in the city of Albany and continued the same without interruption until the year 1850; when from overwork during the cholera epidemic of 1849, his health became so undermined as to necessitate entire suspension of business and compel him to seek mental quietude and physical recuperation from travel and change of scene and association. After four years thus spent his health was so far restored as to enable him to resume practice in the year 1854, since which time he has been an active practitioner of his profession in the city of Vallejo and is now the oldest one in the county of Solano. He has been twice elected president of the medical society of his native county and has officiated as the first President of the Pacific Medical Society, comprising the counties of Solano, Sonoma and Napa. In the year 1851 in connection with Gen. Vallejo and Gen. John B. Frisbie he laid out the plan of the city of Vallejo, which the same year by a majority vote of the people of the State and a two-thirds vote of the Legislature became the capital of the State. In the year 1858 he married Adela Vallejo the second daughter of Gen. Vallejo, by whom he has one child, now the



wife of D. McCarthy, Jr., Treasurer of the city of Syracuse in the State of New York. The Doctor is now in his fifty-eighth year and having devoted the best years of his life to his profession, has retired from active practice, and in the enjoyment of an ample competence is content to pass the remainder of his days among the people and amid the scenes he loves so well.

**FROST, JAMES, M. D.**, arrived in California in 1856 and settled as an apothecary on Mare Island, where he continued till 1866, when he removed to Vallejo and opened his present place of business. Doctor Frost graduated at the Medical Department of the State University in 1877, and is now one of Vallejo's practicing physicians. On May 18, 1878, he was elected to fill the high position of President of the Board of Health, which honor he still retains, with credit alike to himself and his fellow citizens; is also examining physician to the United Order of Workmen, as well as holding the same position to the Knights of Pythias. The subject of our memoir married on February 6, 1859, the daughter of John and Mary Foley, of Albany, New York, by whom he has six children, Arthur H., Edmund F., Mary E., Amelia G., Frances J., and Elizabeth E.

**GOOKIN, THOMAS P.**, was born May 9, 1824, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where he remained till the year 1848, when he went to Boston, Mass., residing there until January 1, 1849, on which date he left for New York City, sailing therefrom, on January 27, for California, and arrived in San Francisco on July 6th of the same year. Has since been a permanent resident of this State and county. He is a member of the Pioneer's Association of this place.

**GORHAM, ABRAHAM**, foreman painter in the Department of Yards and Docks, Mare Island Navy Yard, was born in England, October, 1826. In 1837 he went with his parents to South Australia, where he served his apprenticeship to the painter's trade, and in 1850 came to California, arriving in San Francisco in August of that year, where he worked at his trade. In 1852 he leased the boarding house known as the Thistle Inn, which then stood near the corner of Sansome street and Broadway, carrying it on with good success till 1854, when he went to Santa Clara valley and pursued farming for one year. In April, 1855, he came to Vallejo, and entered into partnership with David Hudson in the building and painting business, which he prosecuted for one year; and in 1858 he commenced work on Mare Island, where he has been engaged most of the time since.

In 1864 Mr. Gorham purchased the property, known as the Eureka Hall, which he owned till 1878.





*S K Nurse*



He married in October, 1848, Miss Elizabeth Ide, by whom he has, Henry, born in August, 1849; George, born in August, 1851; Abraham James, born September, 1853; Thomas Robert, born March, 1856; and Franklin Walter, born March, 1865.

**HANKS, J. G.**, a detective of Vallejo, was born in Summit county, Ohio, on August 6, 1829, where he resided until 1849, when he sailed from New York on May 13th for California on board the ship "Far West." Off the coast of Barbados they were wrecked, and, being picked up by a whaling vessel, were taken to Panama. On the voyage up the Pacific coast our subject once more suffered shipwreck in the loss of the "Chimera," at Monterey. He per force landed and found his way thence to San Francisco on foot. Mr. Hanks arrived in Solano county on March 11, 1850, coming first to Vallejo, and after, going to Benicia, and there opening a blacksmith's shop. Leaving this business, however, he next proceeded to the mines in El Dorado county, but in 1855 once more returned to Vallejo only for two months, when he again went to the mines and there stayed until 1860. We next find Hanks mining in Nevada. Here he became a member of the police force of Virginia City. After five years service he established an express line at Crystal Peak, Cisco, which he maintained till 1869, when, in connection with his father, he commenced an hotel business at Truckee, being also Deputy Sheriff of the county, under C. Gentry. Has been instrumental in several of the noted captures of both this and the State of Nevada, and to-day enjoys the confidence of the officials and his friends. In 1871 he established a brickyard in Vallejo, many of the buildings of the city being manufactured from material off his premises.

**HARRIER, DANIEL W.**, Groceries. Born in Maryland, in 1834, but removed to Bedford county, Penn., with his parents when still very young. In March, 1852, he emigrated to Jefferson county, Iowa, leaving it in 1854, for California; he first settled in Sierra county in August of that year, and at once commenced mining operations. In 1861 he removed to Nevada City, Nevada county, and started a livery stable, at the same time running the stage and express line from that point through Lake City, North Bloomfield, Wolsey, Moore's Flat, and Eureka South, a distance of thirty miles. In March, 1866, the subject of our memoir came to Vallejo, and taking charge of the Metropolitan Hotel (now the Sherman House); he remained its occupant for eighteen months. Seceding from the hotel, Mr. Harrier engaged in the occupation of stock buying, purchasing, also, in connection therewith, the butchering business, of John Burcham. This transaction was effected on August 5th, 1868, and the above undertaking was carried on by him until the month of December, 1875.

On the 27th of January, 1879, he purchased the business of J. E. Williston, in the premises now occupied by his grocery store. D. W. Harrier is one of the leading men in the city. He was among those who started the Vallejo Bank, and was its President from 1876 to 1878. In 1873 he was elected City Trustee, which office he held for two years; served on the Board of Supervisors in 1876; and was enrolled a School Trustee in the fall of 1877. Mr. H. married March 5, 1865, Mrs. Sarah M. Walker, the daughter of John Lee of this city. Their children are, Lizzie R., Lewis G., Victor V., Jessie V., Daniel W., Maud, and Austin.

**HARVEY, HONORABLE JOEL AINSWORTH.**—The subject of this memoir was born on June 24, 1838, at Herkimer, in the county of that name, State of New York. His early days were passed on the slopes of the Hassancleaver Hills, and at the Fairfield Academy, New York, where he was grounded in that education which has, in after life, so well fitted him for the prominent positions which he has since maintained, with credit to all. In 1857 he left the Eastern States, and located in Elgin, Ills., which, after a residence of about two years, he left for California, in the spring of 1859, taking the route across the Plains, and arriving in the Golden State in the fall of that year, at Placerville. At the time the great Washoe excitements of 1860 were the talk of every one and stirred all into a phase of excitability, recalling the halcyon days of the earlier discoveries, he with the rest penetrated into Nevada, but not having a like fortune with others, he drifted back with the unlucky, and finally halted at Genoa, in Carson Valley, then the capital of Western Utah.

When the Territory of Nevada was first organized, Mr. H. was appointed Clerk of Douglas county, of which Genoa was the county seat, and retained the position, from term to term, until the first month of the year 1867. While retaining this responsible office, he studied law with such success that he was admitted to its practice, and during the following year removed therefrom, and resided successively at San Francisco, Reno and Wadsworth, being employed at the latter place as agent for Wells, Fargo & Co., whence, in 1869, he was transferred to their Vallejo office. In 1871 Mr. Harvey organized the Vallejo and San Francisco Express, the affairs of which he managed until 1874, when he was elected to the County Clerkship of Solano county, which distinguished position he held for two terms, and was then nominated by the Republican party for County Judge, but was defeated by the present holder, Judge John M. Gregory, Jr. In March, 1878, he resumed his practice at Vallejo, where he now resides. The honorable career of Mr. Harvey has thus far culminated in his being sent to the Convention, in June, 1878, as county delegate, he having received the largest majority of any delegate on the Republican ticket. He married August 13, 1863, Alameda L. Hub-



bard, at Carson City, Nevada, by whom he has one son and five daughters, viz: Joel H. ; Amanda L. ; Mary A. ; Inez A. ; Blanche L., and Maude F.

**HILBORN, THE HONORABLE S. G.**—The subject of this sketch is a native of Winot, Androscoggin county, Maine, having been born there on December 9, 1834. In early life he and his brother, E. P. Hilborn, were left orphans, when the labor of working the home-farm devolved upon these two youths. In the meantime, E. P. Hilborn emigrated to California, in the midst of their agricultural pursuits, leaving his brother to attend to the farming business, and his education ; which, as the following record shows, was crowned with success for both, E. P. Hilborn being now a prominent grain merchant of Suisun. Mr. Hilborn received the elements of that education which has brought him into such prominence in California, first at Bethel Hill, Oxford county, Maine, and afterwards at Tuft's College, where he graduated in 1859 ; afterwards becoming principal in Oak Grove Academy, Falmouth, Maine, where he remained a year, at the end of which he entered the law office of the Hon. William Pitt Fessenden, at Portland, Maine, being admitted to the bar in 1861. In this year he emigrated to California, arriving at San Francisco, via Panama, in the month of August of the same year. Having passed a few months in the office of Whitman & Wells, a legal firm of Suisun, he removed to Vallejo, and there established himself in the practice which he now enjoys. The Hon. S. G. Hilborn is a man of mark in his county, as his public record will show, while privately he is known to be worthy of the highest esteem and respect. Since his arrival in Vallejo he has held, in order, the following places of trust and honor: City Attorney, in the year when it was incorporated ; a City Trustee for two terms ; Supervisor and Senator ; while his last work of distinction has been in connection with the Constitutional Convention, to which he was a delegate. Mr. H. has also practiced his profession with marked ability, and has been retained in a large number of the leading and most intricate cases that have had their incipience in the county. He is President of the Vallejo Land Improvement Company, as well as a participator in other schemes of a public and private nature. He married Lou E., second daughter of Caleb and Louisa Root, a native of Madison county, N. Y., in 1863, and has one child, Grace A.

**HOBBS, ISAAC**, (deceased,) born in Sanford, Summerworth county, State of Maine, 27th November, 1821. In the year 1839 he left his birthplace and went to South Boston, but remained there only a short time. From there he proceeded to Great Falls, New Hampshire, where he worked at his trade, that of millwright, remaining there till 1844, when he went to Glowchester, New Jersey, being employed in his own trade till the

spring of 1847, when he went to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and set in operation the machinery of several cotton mills in that place. In March, 1849, he started across the plains to California. On reaching Gila river, he, in company with three others, manufactured a "dug-out," and proceeded down the Pino river, calculating that the journey would only occupy three days, and laid in provisions accordingly, but they were twenty-one days on the trip, and on getting to their destination, found the rest of the party had preceded them by eight days. Continued the journey to San Francisco, where they arrived in October, 1849. Mr. Hobbs, associated with some others, organized a company, and, going to Bodega, erected a saw-mill, but at the time, lumber could be secured in San Francisco for the simple freight; the mill was therefore not put in operation. He again returned to San Francisco and embarked in the business of a house-carpenter, at sixteen dollars a day, wages. This was in the summer of 1850; in the fall of that year he visited the southern mines and engaged in prospecting until the spring of 1852, at which time he began farming on the Feather river, but, contracting fever and ague, in the fall of the year he was obliged to abandon agriculture and return to San Francisco. In April, 1853, he returned to the Atlantic coast and his native home, and on May 31 of the same year married, at McConnellville, Ohio, Miss Sarah A. Maxwell, at the residence of her sister, Mrs. C. L. Barker; she was born in Chester county, Pa., October 18, 1826. With his bride he returned to California via Panama, arriving in San Francisco November 5, 1853, when he once more commenced business as a house-builder, which he continued till 1855, when, with his family, he came to Vallejo and engaged as millwright, on Mare Island. In the fall of 1859 he moved to Eel river, Humboldt county, and began farming, and remained there till the summer of 1861, when they returned to Solano county and located 160 acres of land, in section 34, township 4, range 3, on the Suscol ranch, but on March 3, 1863, a bill was passed by Congress giving the land back to its original owner, (who claimed it under the Spanish grant,) when they were removed by the Sheriff of the county. Mr. H. then returned to Vallejo, in 1865, and was elected Sheriff in 1869 for a term of two years. Once more Mr. Hobbs visited (in 1876) the scenes of his youth, as well as the Centennial Exhibition, returning to Vallejo, but never again engaged in active business up to the time of his death, which occurred on February 12, 1878. He was a Mason of old and high standing, as also a member of the Vallejo Pioneer Association. Their children are: Mary B., born at Vallejo April 17, 1857; Ida S., born April 7, 1859; Eunice Esther, born at Eel river, Humboldt county, February 26, 1861; Charles B., born in Sulphur Spring valley, Solano county, August 22, 1863; Heila Grace, born in Vallejo, November 21, 1865, and Maxwell, born May 17, 1872. There are two infants deceased: George, born August 17, 1855, and died July 27, 1864; Isacc, born December 21, 1865, and died September 27, 1869.

**HUBBARD, JOHN E.**, retail dealer in domestic wines, cigars, etc., was born in Santiago, Chile, South America, in 1842, and in 1848 came with his parents to San Francisco, where his father opened the first brass foundry and coppersmith shop on the coast. Remained in San Francisco till 1852, when the family removed to Santa Clara county, the subject of this sketch being sent to school there. In 1857 he accompanied his parents back to Chile, and with them returned to California after a stay of two years in South America. In 1860 Mr. Hubbard proceeded to Santa Clara, and there was engaged by the firm of Hobich & Bros., general merchants, as clerk; in 1862 he returned to San Francisco and entered the office of the Provost Marshal, continuing there till 1864, when he visited the Eastern States with his father and sister. At the end of fourteen months he returned to California, and having resided for four months at Benicia, he went to San Jose, where he was employed for the best part of four years in the firms of T. W. Spring & Co., and N. Hayes. In 1869 he once more visited San Francisco, where he was appointed a Deputy Sheriff. He visited Mexico and Oregon in 1870, and arrived in Vallejo in the fall of that year, after which he proceeded to Napa, Humboldt bay, the Sandwich Islands, and in 1871, returned to Vallejo, where he has since permanently resided. He opened his present business in February, 1877. Is unmarried.

**HUBBS, THE HONORABLE PAUL K.**, (deceased), one of that class of Pioneers whose memory those who are left behind delight to honor, and who labored to bring the State of California into the proud position of being one of the foremost in the Union, was a descendant of another class of Pioneers, his ancestors being of that band of Quaker families who emigrated from England to America in Anno Domini 1650, and settled in Rhode Island. He was born on March 27, 1800, near Woodstown, in Salem county, New Jersey, and received his schooling in Philadelphia, where he was well grounded in the necessary education of the period. Early in life Mr. Hubbs essayed work on a farm, which in a sketch of his life he describes thus: "My father again moving to the old homestead and requiring all possible help, I had to leave the old frame school-house, corner of Race and Juniper, and at eleven years old take charge of a team and go through a course of agricultural studies; more healthful I thought to the body than the mind. All the steam then that contributed to the plowing was raised from the person of man and horse. The reaping was done as in the time of Ruth. We shelled corn by hand across an iron bar and done flail threshing on rainy days, nor was our mowing accomplished by patent. Don't talk about good old times; those were weary days to the farmer—up before daylight to wade through snow and sleet and *slush* and rain and ice to prepare and donate feed for



horses preparatory to a day's work, ending late in the evening. Yet the toil and hardship of the day gave us good appetites and sweet sleep preparatory to a renewal of the same lack of variety, save the change from storm to sunshine and from sunshine to storm, and from intense cold to man-melting heat. Thanks to Almighty God, the small communities of those days were strictly honest, with rare exception. The Bible and the newspaper were read with equal confidence in their truth." Mr. Hubbs did not long pursue farming as an occupation, for he shortly afterwards received a position in a wholesale dry goods store on No. 23 North Front street, Philadelphia, and while there it happened that Judge Kinsay, after whom he had been named, had arrived in the city to pursue his professional practice, and at once took young Hubbs in hand, keeping him reading law or attending law courts during the evening. About this time he entered into his first mercantile transaction on his own account. He had been noticed by the mate of a vessel trading to Porto Rico, who inquired how much capital he had at his disposal. The reply was "nine dollars." With this sum his friend advised him to invest in twelve barrels of apples, which he did; his goods were taken by the brig, and two months thereafter he found gazetted in the morning paper of Imports "20 bags coffee to Paul K. Hubbs." From his extreme youth, then but 13 years, he had some difficulty in convincing the Customs authorities of his honesty; eventually, however, his produce was cleared, a position in the store was granted to him whereat he might dispose of his consignment, which he soon did, realizing the sum of \$140, to him a fabulous outturn indeed. He was not carried away by this turn of Fortuna's wheel, however, for with the proceeds of this venture he invested still further, always attended with a reasonable profit. Mr. Hubbs next visited New York for the first time, on certain legal business, which place he reached by stage and steamer, the latter commanded by Cornelius Vanderbilt, with whom he had a little passage of words, which would appear to have made so deep an impression on the Captain that the point urged by Hubbs was gained. At this period the British were before Baltimore and Philadelphia was alarmed. Citizens were called upon to throw up breastworks over the Schuylkill and other defensible points in the construction of which he entered with the vigor of youth, and shortly after, when on a collecting tour in Virginia, he saw the havoc of war and the ruins of houses and homesteads occasioned by the hostilities which then raged between the United States and the British. On his return, through the failure of the firm in which he had served, Mr. H. found himself out of employment, and after for a while suffering the heartburnings and misery of seeking for work, answering advertisements and seeing his little ready coin dwindling into insignificance, he was taken into the counting-house of J. and M. Brown and M. D. Lewis, the



leading firm of Philadelphia, with whom he worked as book-keeper and afterwards as cashier, and at the end of a lease of faithful service he was established by the firm, whose business had greatly increased, in a branch of the house situated on the south side of Market street, under the name of Paul K. Hubbs, in which he was admitted a partner, which in 1826, at the time of a great crisis, was dissolved by mutual consent, and the assets divided. As a proof of the marvelous uprightness and proper feeling of Mr. Hubbs, the following anecdote is taken from his note book: "Nicholas Biddle, then the great financial spirit of the United States, remarked one day to a coterie at the Exchange, as I passed, 'There goes the sharpest man of Market street!' I heard it, and it pained me. I sought almost immediately an interview and remarked, 'Mr. Biddle, you have ruined me; I heard your remark as I passed; we are all of us afraid of sharp men. Say that I am industrious and know my business, but don't, I pray you, ever call me sharp.' 'Well, Hubbs,' said he, 'this only convinces me that I was right, but I am enlightened by the truism of your suggestion!'" In his manhood, though attending with strict devotion to the cares of his business, the subject of this sketch found time to take a part in the philanthropies of the time, which were then being largely cared for by Mathew Carey, a name which will remain engraven on the early history of Philadelphia as an advocate of American manufactures and home industry generally. In 1827, Mr. H. erected the first calico print works in Pennsylvania at "The Lagrange," on the Pennepack near Bustleton, now the twenty-third ward of the city of Philadelphia, and in 1828 we find him acting as Secretary for "The Society of Internal Improvement of Pennsylvania," having associated with him Chief Justice Tilghman, Peter S. Duponceon, John Sergeant, John J. Borie, Charles J. Ingersoll, and five merchants who formed an active committee of ten. It was difficult to obtain a Legislature willing to take hold of so vast an enterprise. Mr. Hubbs thus describes a session where a startling innovation was mooted; "The committee was assembled at the 'Indian Queen,' Fourth street, one evening. The sub-committee reported the situation above named. John Sergeant, (candidate for Vice-President with Mr. Clay afterward), Chairman of Committee, in his seat and I at his side as Secretary. We were busy about details, when Mr. Ingersoll came in. He at once commenced: 'Mr. Chairman, I have a matter that I deem to be of great importance to the committee; I think we can eclipse New York. I am reliably informed that transportation can be successfully made at cheap rates by running wagons prepared for the purpose over parallel bars of iron. The experiment has been successfully tried at an English colliery, reducing their expenses *two-thirds*, with mere play for the horses. Let us apply.' Mr. Ingersoll!" ejaculated Mr. Sergeant from

the chair, 'we are just completing our well laid plans of success in making a grand canal, and I *hope* you will not come here with your *flights of fancy*.' 'Well,' says Mr. Ingersoll, 'dig your ditch, but I shouldn't be surprised to see it some day covered by parallel bars of iron.' This was the first I ever heard of railroads, and I took occasion to remark that 'such a thing might do in *England*, but our Pennsylvania frosts would forbid it here.' We went on, and after wonderful *log rolling* obtained a law and a canal and a final debt of \$42,000,000 to Pennsylvania." In 1830 he visited Europe, staying at many of the most picturesque spots in Great Britain, and happened to be in London at the time of the coronation of King William IV., which is thus amusingly described by Mr. Hubbs: "My banker was too late for Westminster Abbey, but obtained me a stand in a parlor nearly opposite St. James' Palace, whence the cavalcade would issue, and where the children of the Lord Mayor and myself could see everything of the move. The Duchess of Kent would not let little Vic., then some fourteen years old, go in the procession. Earl somebody, one of Billy's naturals, fixed up the whole matter, and Vic's place was not the right one, and she didn't ride then; but she did afterward, God bless her! William looked very like old General Cadwalader. The Queen had a square face and a princely Dutch nose indicative of bad humor. They shouted, 'Long live King William the Fourth!' I shouted, 'Hurrah for Billy Guelph!' I thought that was about the right sort of American manner, and let it out." After his sojourn in England, Mr. Hubbs crossed over to France with which he was much charmed, and after visiting many places of mark he once more sailed to America in the packet "Sally," commanded by Captain Pell, but as the voyage thither was undertaken solely for the purpose of bringing his wife to share with him the pleasures of sight-seeing, he once more sailed from American shores. The port of destination this time was Marseilles, through the Straits of Gibraltar and up the Mediterranean, and again he landed in *la belle France*; and on April 4, his son Anthony was born in Lyons; and it was in this city that he received his first taste of Revolutionary France, in the year 1834.

From this city, Mr. Hubbs made the tour of Europe. To follow him on, which is impossible, for want of space; and early in 1836 he took ship for home from Havre; but encountering a hurricane in the English Channel, being saved from shipwreck on the rock-bound coast of Devonshire, as it were, by a miracle, he landed in New York without further adventure, and proceeded thence to the home of his youth. The change found in Philadelphia after so protracted an absence was very marked. Men whom he had left struggling, he found in opulence; while those who were at the top of the ladder of commercial and financial fame had succumbed to make or mar no more. In 1837 Mr. Hubbs owned the Mil-

hausen Print Works, then located below the Navy Yard, in Philadelphia, which were destroyed in September, 1839, by fire, through mismanagement on the part of the fire company ; but with that rectitude of mind which has always characterized his dealings, and that perseverance which would stand no brooking, he paid off every dollar lost by the fire, and bought in a large portion of the Pennypack Mills. Hereafter he took part in the politics of the State, which led him into much prominence, and in 1841 was elected Colonel of the Third Regiment, Pennsylvania militia, which had a share in the subduing of the fanaticism that culminated in the church riots. In the midst of the great excitement of the retirement of Henry Clay, whom Col. Hubbs in his sketch, eulogizes in glowing terms, he was offered by Mr. Tyler, the Consulate at Paris, and subsequently by Mr. Polk, the like position at San Francisco, which he declined, for what were to him good and sufficient reasons ; and was present in Washington during the excitement of the declaration of war against Mexico. Mr. Dalles was then enthusiastic to procure California as well as Oregon, then comprising what is now all west of the Missouri, between 42 and 49 of latitude ; and it was when in the Capital that he was first introduced to General Winfield Scott, the veteran and accomplished Chief of the American army.

A new era now opened itself for Col. Hubbs. California had become the popular talk of the Eastern States ; he had read Emory's Notes on the country south from Salt Lake to California, and Fremont's Rocky Mountain and California campaign ; then came reports of gold, he, therefore, for his star had not latterly been in the ascendant as regards financial success, determined to emigrate, his first idea being to attempt the overland journey, which he agreed to undertake in company with his cousin, Ira Burdsall, Frank Tilford, a Mr. Wingate and Bryant, the author of "What I saw in California." Falling sick, however, this journey was given up by him, but, nothing daunted, he wound up his affairs, resigned his posts of honor, responsibility and trust and, notwithstanding inducements of a flattering order being held out, he finally sailed for California on May 3, 1849, in the ship "Susan G. Owens," his wife and children accompanying him. His description of the scene on the wharf is full of pathos and teems with humane feeling, clothed in words which, though in prose, vie in interest with the immortal lives of Childe Harold's Farewell from the halls of his youth. The good ship, with its precious freight of human beings, proceeded on its journey and, with the exception of one or two disagreeables, incidental to a long sea voyage, touched at Rio de Janiero and Valparaiso and arrived in San Francisco at noon, on October 12, 1849. The first impressions of Californian life are graphically described by his son, for Col. Hubbs did not live to finish the sketch of his life with his own pen. In December, 1849, we find the



Colonel, along with his eldest son, en route to the San Joaquin valley, finally reaching Stockton one week after leaving San Francisco. The description of the city of Stockton, as it then was, is worthy of being quoted: "The inhabitants were employed: some in gambling, others in prayer, and every diversity of occupation. Some of those who were the strongest advocates of temperance, when in the Eastern States, might here be seen dealing out liquor with greater vigor than all the others of the same profession. Shoemakers by trade would here be lawyers by occupation. The mud was knee-deep, and most of the inhabitants appeared as though they liked it too well to brush it off, and to wash their faces or comb the hair, that they considered was a once-a-month job." In this canvass cosmopolitan city, the Hubbs', father and son, purchased a camping outfit of frying-pan, bean-kettle, coffee-pot, cups and plates of tin, butcher knife and other necessary impedimenta and started for the Stanislaus river, which they reached on the second day, crossing at Hyslop's Ferry and camped at Texas Jack's ranch, where they were entertained by "Big Mouth Bill," "Three-fingered Jack," and others of like kith. Here he located 640 acres of land, three miles above Texas Jack's, opposite Cotton's Ferry, and named it Camp Washington, the ford being called Hubbs' Ford. These acres are now known as the rising town of Oakdale. Here a house of six feet square, composed of rushes, closed in on the eastern and southern sides, was erected; and, though it did not keep out the wild beasts, with which the country then abounded, it served the necessary purpose of a shelter. These two carefully nurtured gentlemen here commenced the veritable hardships of a pioneer's life, trees commenced to drop under their untiring axes, a vegetable garden was planted and then he sent for his wife and children and went to Stockton to receive them, but the usually trim Colonel was scarcely recognizable in his slouch hat, grown beard and carelessly tied neck-handkerchief. The warm and affectionate heart still was there, however, and as proper arrangements as could be made in those days were perfected, and the family proceeded to their home on the Stanislaus, Mrs. Hubbs being the first white lady to cross its waters, where they were received with much joy by their eldest boy. So great a novelty was the appearance of a lady on the Stanislaus, that the news of her arrival spread like wild-fire, and she was visited by hundreds of rough looking miners who, notwithstanding their uncouth exterior, held soft and warm hearts within, and would feel quite homesick in the presence of the fair gentlewoman. While he lived in Tuolumne county, which then swarmed with horse thieves, assassins and outlaws, their house was often the haven where the outraged traveler sought protection, which was always obtained, while in the sketch from which this memoir is condensed, we gather that that desperado, Joaquin Murietta, was, under an assumed name, a constant visitor at his house;



judge of the surprise on recognizing the head of the outlaw as the same individual who had so often petted his children and partaken of his hospitality.

In 1850, Colonel Hubbs entered public life in California, as Alcalde, or Justice of the Peace, for Tuolumne; and, in the following year, he was elected to the Senate, by the Democratic party from Tuolumne county, and, in December, 1851, he with his family arrived at Vallejo, then the State Capital, ready to enter upon his Senatorial duties. Col. Hubbs followed the fortunes of the Legislature on its cruises in search of a permanent location; he fought hard against every bill which favored the removal of the capital, as he considered it an unnecessary expense to the State. To him is the credit due of introducing the Bill entitled "Providing Revenue for the support of the Government of this State," one of the most popular bills of the time, although it had some enemies. He was also in connection with the Honorable Frank Soule, the framer of the bill which was enacted and which formed the basis of the existing laws encouraging the system of education for the young at general expense, which is so great a pride to the State. Col. Hubbs was President, *pro tem.*, of the Senate, and, while occupying the Chair of that body, performed an act for which, to this day, the citizens of San Francisco feel grateful, for having saved much to her, as also it did to the State, when the first of the bulkhead scheme's bill came up on its final passage. His was the casting vote which was given in favor of the city of San Francisco and against the project of throwing the whole water front of that city into the hands of speculators. Colonel Hubbs was one of the most industrious of Senators, he worked earnestly in the cause of education, for which he was afterwards rewarded by being placed at the head of the Educational Department, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; but it is not only in this sphere alone in which he shone, the Acts he laid before the House are too numerous to mention in this place, suffice it to say that they were all devised for the benefit of the State. He had at heart the design to enact just and wholesome legislation, that served alike for the best interest of the agriculturist as well as the miner; while he had the forethought to make the foundation for the preparatory necessities of the large influx of population which afterwards found its way to the shores of California. During his tenure of office as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the number of schools in the State, in three years, increased from twenty to three hundred and sixteen, while the advance in attendance was from three thousand three hundred and fourteen to twenty-six thousand one hundred and sixty. Many of his friends desired to renominate him for a second term, while others wished that he should become a candidate for the United States Senate, both of which he declined, favoring an intimate friend, Andrew J. Moulder, to be his successor.

At the death of his wife, which took place on September 30, 1856, Colonel Hubbs retired from public life and, having visited Puget Sound, he settled at Port Townsend, Washington Territory, following his profession of attorney and counsellor at law; he succeeded in building up a large practice and was known throughout the Territory as one of its most eminent lawyers and statesmen. In 1860, he was elected to the Territorial Council, representing the counties of Jefferson, Clalm Island and Whatcom. In the following year he was chosen President of the Council and, in 1866, he was prominently spoken of as a probable candidate for Congress; business, however, called him to California, and he ultimately located at Vallejo. While a resident of this city, he was one of its moving spirits, he occupied many positions of trust; to him is due, in a great measure, the establishment of an Episcopal Church in Vallejo. On Tuesday, November 17, 1874, at noon, he was, to all appearances, well, shortly after he was taken ill, and at five minutes to two, in the afternoon of that day, he died, honored by all; respected by all; loved by all, and without an enemy.

Colonel Hubbs married Miss Eliza Hedelius, in 1830, daughter of Capt. Hedelius, who fought with Paul Jones on the Bon Homme Richard, to join whom he ran away from an English University. They leave Paul Kinsey, born near Nashville, Tennessee, on September 20, 1832. He is now a resident of Washington Territory. Anthony was born in Lyons, April 4, 1832; is now book-keeper in the State Controller's office at Sacramento; Virginia, born in 1841; Charles Henry, born September 17, 1843, now of Vallejo. In 1857 Col. Hubbs married secondly Margaret Gilchrist, at Benicia, by whom he had Bayard Ingersoll, born October 19, 1858, and Helen May, born May, 1862.

**HUBBS, CHARLES H.**, third son of the Hon. Paul K. Hubbs, was born in Pennypack, now a portion of the City of Philadelphia, on September 17, 1843, and accompanied his parents, in the ship "Susan G. Owens," leaving Philadelphia May 3d, and arriving in San Francisco October 12, 1849. He first attended Doctor Vermehr's school, then the only one in that city. During the legislative sessions of 1852 and 1853 was Page of the Assembly, being Chief Page in the latter year, with Virgil C. Bartlett and William Fosbender as assistants. During these sessions he received ten dollars a day as compensation, and out of the salary saved, a sum of twenty-five hundred dollars, which was invested for him by his father, the interest paying for his schooling and other necessaries. Was educated at the Collegiate Institution, Public School, and High School of Benicia, and in 1857 entered the telegraph service as messenger in the Benicia office. During the fall of the year he came to Vallejo, for the purpose of instructing W. W. Chapman in the art of telegraphy, and in April, 1858, when the

Northern Telegraph was being constructed from Marysville to Yreka, by Messrs. Strong and Hubbard, he accepted a position on that line, being the first operator at Tehama, where he taught Charles Harvey. While there was promoted to be Chief Operator on the line. From thence he proceeded to Horsetown, where he was preceptor in telegraphy to Judge James N. Eby, and after Frank W. Blake at Weaverville, Trinity county, whence he returned home, having resigned his position. He next went to Shaw's Flat and there received propositions to proceed to Napa to open the office of the line which was being extended from Vallejo to that city. This he, however, only held for a few weeks, when he was called by his father to accompany him to Washington Territory. In 1865, when James Gamble, the General Superintendent, was extending telegraphic communication from California through Oregon and Washington Territory, to meet the Collins' line, which was proposed should cross at Behrings Straits to Asia, Mr. Hubbs again entered the telegraph service, and was appointed agent at the Swinomish station, which was the office where all the business between the offices north of that station had to be repeated. In 1868 he was transferred to Fort Vancouver, and here purchased a book-store, which business he followed, in conjunction with that of telegraphy and photography. In 1869 he sold out his book-store and proceeded to Stockton, Sacramento, and Marysville, in the employ of the Western Union Telegraph Co., when, in October, 1870, he was installed as Manager of the Vallejo office.

In 1875 Mr. Hubbs was appointed a Notary Public by His Excellency Governor Irwin, and reappointed in 1877. In the following year he was selected by Governor Robinson Commissioner of Deeds for New York.

In 1876 he was elected a member of the Board of Education for Vallejo Township, and took strong grounds against excessive taxation and in favor of promoting the advancement of the educational interests of Vallejo, which was appreciated by his constituents, who re-elected him, giving him the largest vote of any candidate who had opposition for office.

**HUNTER, JAMES**—Is a native of Ireland, but of Scotch parentage, who had moved to the place of his nativity a few years previous to his birth, on March 27, 1827. In 1840 his parents emigrated to America, settling near Cedar Rapids, Linn county, Iowa; where James was educated in the common schools. On May 1, 1849, Mr. Hunter and his brother left Iowa City, Iowa, crossed the Plains, arrived at Lawson's rancho on the 23d of October following. During that winter he prospected for gold at Bidwell's Bar, and meeting with fair success, but left the place the following spring, going to Feather River, where his mining operations were more remunerative. In 1851 he located on the southeast branch of Feather River, but in the fall of that year moved to Shasta county, Cal., and was the pro-



prietor of a feed and sale stable. From here he came to Vallejo township, settling on his present farm in the Suscol hills. Here he owns 844 acres of fertile valley land, and in Mendocino county 3,500 acres, as well as a saw-mill and store.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the subject of this sketch is connected, by direct descent, with the best Scottish blood, and came honestly by the virtues which have characterized and advanced his private life. He was never actively engaged in politics, but during his long residence and business career in this county, is regarded as an excellent citizen, a quiet, energetic business man, enjoying the marked respect and esteem of his neighbors and friends.

Married, by the Rev. Pierpoint, Presbyterian minister, at Petaluma, Sonoma county, Cal., Miss Celia, daughter of Samuel C. Stewart, on Oct. 25, 1858. James William, born Aug. 5, 1859, Flora J. born Aug. 16, 1861, Sarah A. born April 20, 1863, Harry S. born Feb. 4, 1873, Alena Maud born Sept. 12, 1875, are their living children. Maggie Bell, born Oct. 12, 1865, died April 1, 1877; Frank Guss, born Jan. 27, 1868, died March 22, 1877; John Calvin, born Sept. 19, 1870, died March 23, 1877. These children died of small pox.

**JEFFERIS, P. E.**—Born in Chester county, Pa., in the year 1828, where he remained till 1846, having learned the trade of carpenter at Union, in that county. He then removed to Wilmington, Delaware, and having resided there for eighteen months went to Philadelphia and engaged in the dry goods business until 1851, when he came to California, arriving in San Francisco on February 8, 1852. In that year he went to Nevada county, and for eighteen months prosecuted mining, at the end of which he returned to Philadelphia and embarked in the furniture business, continuing it up to the spring of 1854, when he once more sailed for California. On his arrival he proceeded to Sierra county, leaving it in the following summer for Nevada county, where he commenced the livery business, which he prosecuted for about fourteen years. On February 8, 1869, he visited Vallejo, but it was not till May, 1870, that he permanently settled in that city, when he obtained employment on Mare Island Navy Yard, at which he was engaged till 1874, when he received the appointment of Foreman House-Joiner, in the Department of Yards and Docks, a position which he still holds. Mr. Jefferis married in Philadelphia, on September 26, 1854, Sarah, daughter of John Hinecle, of that city, by whom he has Ida Florence; Lizzie H.; Mary L.; and Enos P.

**JONES, REV. EDWARD INSKIP**, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, December 3, 1844, and came to San Francisco in May, 1850, where he attended the Public Schools, continuously, till May, 1856. He accompanied his parents to



San Jose, in 1862, whither they had gone to farm. Mr. Jones attended the "University of the Pacific" at Santa Clara, and taught school over two years, at intervals, between 1862 and 1867. Had ministry in view, and made preparations, while at college and during his teachings, but began the study of law in May, 1867, at San Francisco. Was admitted to the Supreme Court of California in April, 1870, and practiced in that city till September, 1871, at which time he joined the California Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Was appointed to Ferndale, September, 1871; to Eureka, September, 1873, and to Vallejo, September, 1876. Mr. Jones married October 8, 1876, Theresa L., daughter of A. F. Broderick, of Eureka, Humboldt county, who was born in Colchester, Nova Scotia, on March 1, 1861, by whom he has one child, Broderick, born February 14, 1878.

**KENNEDY, JOHN E.**, general merchandise, insurance agent and notary public, was born in the county of Kerry, in Ireland, in 1833. In 1849 he emigrated to America, settling in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1854 he arrived in California, and in 1856 proceeded to Mare Island. Two years later he returned to Boston on a visit, but came back the same year. In 1867 his present business was first established, and he was enrolled a notary public in 1876. Mr. Kennedy was the first assessor after Vallejo received its charter; while he is agent for the Imperial of London, London of London, Northern of Liverpool, and Queen of Liverpool fire insurance companies, with aggregate cash assets of \$38,000,000. In 1863 he married Catherine, daughter of John Deermey, of County Tyrone, Ireland, who was born in 1843, by whom he has no issue.

**KITTO, SAMUEL**, is a native of Cornwall, England, having been born there on April 19, 1830. In 1851 he came to San Francisco, in the ship "Fairlie," of London. On his arrival he at once proceeded to Rich Bar, on the North Fork of Feather River, and began mining, remaining there till 1858, when he paid a visit to Old England, being absent for eight months. He returned to his mining interests in 1859; after which he came to Vallejo, where he has since resided. Mr. Kitto has been a trustee of the M. E. Church since 1869; is also a prominent mover in the Temperance cause, in which he has always taken a deep interest. In 1873 he was elected one of the trustees of the Good Templars' Home for Orphans, a position which he still holds. He married in Vallejo, May 9, 1861, Miss Margaret Carter, a native of Ireland, by whom he has Margaret Loftee, born April 5, 1862; Edward August, born May 29, 1864; Harriet Elizabeth, born November 27, 1865; Samuel Henry, born October 10, 1868; and Lilian May, born April 30, 1873.

**KLINK, REV. NATHANIEL B.**, pastor First Presbyterian Church, Vallejo, was born in the townshp of New Scotland, county of Albany, State of New York, on February 5, 1823. His early education was obtained in the public schools. He spent three years in the Albany Academy, when Dr. T. Romeyn Beck was principal, and entered Union College in 1845, and graduated July 26, 1847. In the Fall of 1848 he entered the Theological Seminary of Princeton, and graduated from that institution in May, 1851. From this latter seminary he went directly to Oneida Valley, where he passed one year in missionary labor. Thence he moved to West Galway, Saratoga County, where he remained until June, 1853, when he was called to the Presbyterian Church of Balston Spa, where he was ordained and installed as pastor. Resigned this charge in 1855, and was then called to the Presbyterian Church in Fairmount, Huntendon County, New Jersey, remaining there until December, 1859, when he resigned this charge and came to California. He arrived in San Francisco with his family on December 26, 1859, but, remaining there only a few days, at once proceeded to Vallejo, where he has since resided, with the exception of one year and three months, when he was acting-pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Sacramento. Mr. Klink married, in 1853, Elizabeth, daughter of Timothy Seymour, a deacon in the North Dutch Church, Albany, New York, by whom he has a family.

**KLOPPENBURG, DANIEL WILLIAM**, was born in Hanover, Germany, November 16, 1822, where he remained till 1840, when he came to America, first settling in New York City. Here he remained till August, 1846, and then joined Colonel Stevenson's regiment, which was bound for California, but was persuaded by his brother not to proceed with it. On August 2, 1846, he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, and in partnership with his brother opened a saloon in that city, which he continued till April 2, 1849, when he sailed for California, in the steamer "Lewis," of Cincinnati, for St. Louis, Missouri, and thence went to St. Joseph, Missouri, in company with three men who were to be his companions across the plains. On arriving at St. Joseph, however, the party broke up and their impedimento sold at auction. Mr. K. reserved to himself one mule, and, having purchased a horse, using the mule as a pack animal, started on horseback to cross the plains to California alone. After three days' travel he overtook a party of Bostonians, and kept in their company until he reached Fort Laramie. Here the whole cavalcade converted their train into one for pack animals, setting fire to the wagons, with such articles as could not be conveniently taken with them, and again started on their journey, he traveling with them till they made Smith's trading post on Bear River, where, seceding from the party, he proceeded alone to Green River, Indian Territory. While pursuing his solitary ride he was taken seriously

ill, and for three days lay in the sage-brush. Fortunately he soon recovered, and finding his animals had not strayed from his vicinity, he once more was on the move, and when nearing the fifty mile desert at the Sink of the Humboldt River he fell in, by chance, with a single traveler from St. Louis. With him he crossed the weary waste, the two keeping company till they reached the Golden State.

Mr. Kloppenburg first began mining at Wever Creek, near Hangtown (now Placerville), where he continued for a short time, and then went to Sacramento, and there remained till the Spring of 1850, when he moved to Marysville; from thence to Rough and Ready mines, in Nevada County, and here engaged in mining with good success till 1851, when he returned to Marysville and entered into partnership with a Mr. Kennedy, in the bakery business. In the Fall of 1851 he went to Greenwood Valley, El Dorado County, and pursued mining operations till the Spring of 1852, when, in company with others, he took up a claim at Spanish Bar, on the American River, where he worked till driven away by the rainy season. He again commenced the bakery business at Spanish Bar Bridge, which he continued till early in 1853, at which time he went to Michigan Bluffs, in Placer County, and established a like connection at that place, continuing it till 1856, when he left for San Francisco. In the Summer of 1857 Mr. K. proceeded to Sacramento, where, on August 3, 1857, he married Margaret A. Harrison. He then returned to Michigan Bluffs, bought back his former business, and in connection with it opened a hotel, which he carried on till 1867, during which time his establishments were twice burned. In this year the subject of this sketch returned to San Francisco and started a grocery, which he managed till 1868, when he removed to South Vallejo, and engaged principally in the draying business. Mr. Kloppenburg is a member of the Vallejo Pioneer Association, and of the Naval Lodge of F. and A. M., No. 83. His children are Annie, Otto and William, and two deceased—Eddie and Etta.

**LAMONT, JAMES A.**, born in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, in 1842, July 9th, where he resided for the first six years of his life, after which he was taken by his parents to Little Rock, Arkansas, and remained there two years, thence moved to Nashville, Tennessee, and afterward to Boone county, Kentucky, where he resided for five years. Came to this county with his parents in 1854, where he engaged in farming for several years. In 1865 Mr. Lamont graduated at the Benicia College and Law School, and was admitted to the bar, practiced in Napa and Grass Valley, Nevada county, for a year and a half, when he returned to Nashville, to wind up the estate of his parents, remaining there three years. In 1869 he returned, and in September of the following year purchased the interest of J. E. Williston, and became partner in the firm of Egery & Lamont. He



married, in San Francisco, January 17, 1878, Miss Sara D. Barry, a native of New York, who was born in December, 1853, by whom he has one son, James Barry.

**MALLETT, GEO. F.**, Assistant Naval Constructor. Born in the town of Topsham, Lincoln county, Maine, October 23, 1832, where he remained until 1849. He learned his trade, that of shipwright, at Bath, Maine, where he remained until October, 1856, when he emigrated west and settled in Berlin, Wis., remaining there twenty months, when he returned East, and on June 5, 1858, he sailed from New York, on the steamer "Moses Taylor," to the Isthmus, where he took the steamer "John L. Stephens," arriving in San Francisco June 28th of the same year, following his trade in San Francisco and Benicia until November 20, 1861, at which time he came to Mare Island, and on March 14, 1870, he was appointed Foreman Shipwright, when, on January 22, 1872, he was appointed Assistant Naval Constructor, which position he still holds, giving satisfaction to all. Mr. Mallett married his first wife, Mary D. Hilton, in Bath, Maine, January 29, 1854. She was born in Maine in 1826, and died July 26, 1859. Married his present wife, Mary E. Speck, February 22, 1863, by whom he has Mary E., born April 24, 1864; Lena B., born August 13, 1867, and died December 28, 1877; Carrie W., born March 31, 1869; George F., born September 19, 1872; Levi C., born July 26, 1874, and William H., born September 25, 1876. Mr. Mallett is a member of the F. and A. M. Lodge, No. 87, and also Past Master of same institution, as well as Past High Priest of the Naval Chapter. He was appointed to select the Masonic Cemetery, and has very prominently identified himself with other orders.

**MUCH, U. S. N., GEO. W.**, the Naval Constructor at Mare Island, is a native of Philadelphia, Pa., and born on 22d June, 1825. Here he received his primary education in the common schools, and his academical learning at the Stockdale Academy. Here, also, he learned and became proficient in the ship-carpenter's trade. In 1846 he went to New Orleans, thence down to the swamps of Louisiana, cutting live oaks for ship timbers. For two years he followed this pursuit, then returned to Philadelphia, where he married, in November, 1848, Miss Eleanor W., daughter of George W. Barn, formerly of Maryland. About this time he went into business—pertaining to his trade—on his own account, which he continued, at intervals, until 1858, when he was employed in the Navy Yard as foreman of the construction department. On May 17, 1866, went into the regular naval service, and appointed Assistant Naval Constructor; at the same time received orders to report at Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston, Mass. In 1869 returned to Philadelphia Navy Yard, where he



remained until April 15, 1871, when he was promoted Naval Constructor, and repaired to the Washington Navy Yard. Came to Mare Island Navy Yard in June, 1873, where he has been an able and efficient officer, at the head of the Construction Department.

**MACDONALD, REV. DAVID F., D. D.**, Rector of the Church of the Ascension, Vallejo, is a native of Rosshire, Scotland, having been born there in the year 1837. He received his early education in Inverness, the capital of the Highlands, and thereafter prosecuted his studies at the Edinburgh University, at which seat of learning he received the degree of Master of Arts. In 1854 he was sent with Letters Dismissary by the Lord Bishop of Moray and Ross, the present Primate of the Scottish Episcopacy, to the Bishop of California, and arrived in that State in September, 1855, and was, shortly after, ordained by Bishop Ingraham Kip in the old Trinity Church, in San Francisco, his being the first Episcopal ordination held on the Pacific Coast.

In the following year he was directed by the Bishop to assume charge of the missionary district of Benicia, where he performed service in a temporary building fitted up for the purpose. While there Doctor MacDonal was the spiritual adviser of Beverly Wells, the first criminal hanged in Solano county. From Benicia he was moved to Coloma, El Dorado county, where he continued his missionary labors for two years, and built a church, and established a congregation at Hangtown (now Placerville). In 1859 he was called, as Rector, to St. John's Church, Stockton, where he labored for two years further, and, on the breaking out of the war, he proceeded to North Carolina, and followed the fortunes of the Southern army, until peace was declared. At this period he was the recipient of a call to St. James', Olean, Western New York, where he remained three years, and from there was called to Sag-Harbor, Long Island, having charge of the Episcopal Church there for seven years. In 1875 he went to Sharon, Conn., and, at the end of two years, assumed charge of Baxter County School, Arkansas, for one year; he then went to Dardanelles, in that State, where he erected St. Paul's Episcopal Church, of which he was Rector until 1878, when he accepted a call to the Church of the Ascension at Vallejo. Was created a Doctor of Divinity in 1859. Dr. MacDonal married, first, in 1865, Nellie, only daughter of Daniel Judd, of Hinsdale, Western New York, who died in 1869, by whom he has Flora, born in 1866; and Katie, born in 1869. He married, secondly, at Trinity Church, New York, August 13, 1874, Susannah, daughter of George W. Whitaker, of the Manor, Oxford, England.

**McCUDDEN JAMES**, dealer, in wood, coal, lumber and groceries, was born in the county of Fermanagh, in Ireland, in 1837, and arrived in the United

States in 1853, first settling in the city of New York, where he remained some years, when he came to California, in 1857. In 1861 he opened the Union Hotel in Vallejo, remaining its proprietor for ten years. In 1874 his present business was established, and two years afterwards he first started in the lumber trade. Mr. McCudden is one of Vallejo's most honored citizens; his election to the Board of Supervisors in 1877 proving the estimation in which he is held.

**McDERMOTT, ROBERT**, born in Ireland in 1841, and came to America in 1842 with his parents, who settled in Lower Canada, where they resided till 1848, when they moved to Upper Canada. In 1859 he crossed to the United States, and took up his residence in McComb county, Michigan, remaining there till 1860. In April of this year he enlisted in Co. A., Ninth U. S. Infantry, and was stationed in the Detroit Recruiting district for some time, when he went to the North Pass of the Rocky mountains, where he got his discharge under the Minor's Act. He remained in that section of the country till the fall of 1863, when he again enlisted in the First Oregon Infantry, and served till the end of the war. Arrived in Vallejo in June, 1867, and purchased the one-half interest of F. O'Grady, in the Empire Soda Works. Married April 19, 1869, Catharine Monaghan, a native of Ireland.

**McDONALD, T. P.**, born in Galena, Joe Davies county, Illinois, March 21, 1850, and in 1857 moved with his parents to Nevada county, California, where he remained till 1867, when he came to Vallejo, and entered into the employment of E. McGettigan, in the wholesale liquor business, until 1875, when he became clerk at the Howards, filling that position till September, 1878, when he formed his present partnership with James Ward. Mr. McDonald has been a member of the Vallejo Rifles since 1869; held the office of Second Lieutenant for four years, and was promoted to be First Lieutenant in May, 1877.

**McDONALD, WILLIAM**, born in Frostburg, Alleghany Co., Maryland, in 1850, and moved with his parents to California in 1854, first settling in San Francisco, where they remained three months, and then accompanied them to Vallejo. In 1867 he began an apprenticeship in the bricklayer's department in the Mare Island Navy Yard, where he was employed till elected City Marshal by the Republican party in 1878. Mr. McDonald's father died in Vallejo, Sept. 19th, 1875; his mother is still living, however, and makes her home with him. He married, May 29th, 1870, Miss Mary Brown, by whom he has two children: Amelia, born April 8, 1871, and William, born February 10, 1875.

**McGETTIGAN, EDWARD**, was born in County Donegal, Ireland, March 20, 1840, and emigrated to America in 1856, arriving in New York in January, 1857. He at once removed to Philadelphia, where he sojourned one year, at the end of which he sailed, *via* Panama, for San Francisco, arriving there in June, 1858. He lost no time, but went to the mountains and engaged in mining in Butte county. In May, 1859, he located in Vallejo. In 1862 he established the Vallejo Brewery in company with A. Murray and James McGarvey, but sold out his interest in 1865. Shortly after this date he opened the Empire Soda Works. In 1874, the Vallejo Brewery was in the market; he therefore purchased it, changing its name to the Pioneer Brewery, after having first rebuilt and refurnished it.

To Mr. McGettigan, aided by General Frisbie, is due the building of the street-car railroad in Vallejo, whereby real estate was improved to the extent of many thousands of dollars, enhancing thereby the condition of many of the poorer class of citizens. He was twice elected to fill the responsible position of City Trustee; how well he discharged the duties of that office, the records of the corporation can truly attest; and as one of the Directors of the Saving and Commercial Bank, his true honesty is best told by the valuable services rendered in placing that institution upon a sound and solid basis, rendering that aid, which the general crash demanded, by surrendering the earnings of twenty years' toil to meet his obligations and perpetuate his honor and integrity as a man and a worthy citizen. Mr. McGettigan is also largely interested with General J. B. Frisbie in the following mines in New Mexico: Consolidated Hidalgo, and Esperanza Consolidated, ventures which bear every promise of being both valuable and fruitful. He married in 1864, Miss Mary A. O'Grady.

**McINNIS, J. A.**, (grocer) was born in Prince Edwards Islands on March 4, 1838, where he remained till 1855, being raised on a farm; emigrated to Boston, Mass., in 1855, and engaged in working at different occupations till June 7, 1857, at which time he joined the U. S. Navy as a marine and was stationed at the Charleston Navy Yard, making a cruise on the U. S. "Merrimac" to the South Pacific Squadron; stationed there till 1860; returned to Norfolk, Virginia, and was transferred to Charlestown Navy Yard, Mass.; remained on duty as a non-commissioned officer till September, 1861; transferred to headquarters, Washington, D. C., and joined the Marine Battalion, under Major John G. Reynolds, and joined the expedition under Commodore Dupont and General W. T. Sherman, which left Handon Rose, Virginia, for Port Royal, South Carolina, from which port they sailed in October following on the Ship Transport "Governor." On this voyage, while off Cape Hatteras, they encountered a terrible hurricane, the steamer being wrecked in the gale, losing one



Corporal and six privates, and, after thirty-six hours, without food or drink, the battalion was picked up by the U. S. S. "Sabine." On arriving at Port Royal, the fleet, under Commodore Dupont, bombarded Fort Beauregard and Fort Walker; silenced their batteries, and General Sherman's forces and the Marine Battalion landed and took possession of the forts; remained there on duty till February, 1862; joined an expedition, fitted out at Port Royal, under General Cushman and Dupont, and proceeded to Ferendino, Florida. On arriving there the rebels deserted the fort and batteries, and a portion of the army was landed and took possession of the town, fort, and batteries. The expedition then proceeded to St. Augustine, Florida. On arriving, the rebels retreated, and a portion of the army landed and took possession of the town, fort, and batteries. Returned to headquarters at Washington, D. C., remaining there off duty till December 1, 1862; proceeded then under orders to Brooklyn, New York, and joined a command under Major A. C. Garland and proceeded by steamer for Mare Island Navy Yard, California. While *en route* from New York to Aspinwall on the passenger steamer "Ariel," she was captured and made prisoner by the Confederate States "Alabama," (Captain Semmes). All the command were made prisoners of war, their armor equipment and military stores being captured and taken on board of the "Alabama." After twenty-six hours Captain Jones of the "Ariel" signed a bond to the Captain of the "Alabama," and was relieved and proceeded on their passage to Panama, and arrived at Mare Island Navy Yard, California, December 28, 1862. Detailed on service at San Francisco till 1864; stationed at Marine Barracks, Mare Island, as First Sergeant till June, 1876, when he left the service and engaged in the grocery business in Vallejo. Mr. M. was elected one of the city Trustees in March, 1878, an office which he now holds.

**McKNIGHT, ANDREW**, block and pump maker, was born in Liverpool, England, February 11, 1825, where he served his apprenticeship under George Roberts. In July, 1848, he sailed from that port to America, and arrived in upper Canada in October; in the succeeding year removing to New York, which he left for California in February, 1860, arriving in San Francisco March 14th of that year. In June, 1861, he located in Vallejo, where he has since resided, being employed principally on the Mare Island Navy Yard. Mr. McKnight married in New York, September 30, 1852, Miss Mary Crawford, a native of County Tyrone, Ireland, by whom he has Andrew J., born in Brooklyn, New York, September 1, 1853; Richard, born October 13, 1855; Mary A. C., born November 19, 1857, married to Georgo W. McGill, of Vallejo; Joseph Thomas, born in San Francisco, April 19, 1861, and died April 16, 1862; Elizabeth, born in Vallejo, April 16, 1863; Agnes, born March 25, 1866, and Samuel James, born October 2, 1870.



**McKNIGHT, ANDREW J.**, was born in Brooklyn, New York, September 1, 1853, and, with his parents, came to California in 1859, residing first in San Francisco. In June, 1861, he accompanied them to Vallejo, where they are now located. Mr. McKnight holds the office of Deputy Marshal of the city of Vallejo. He is unmarried.

**McLEOD, JOHN C.**, was born in Inverness, the Capital of the Highlands of Scotland, on March 19, 1801, but, at the age of three years, he was taken by his parents to Pictou, Nova Scotia, whither they had emigrated. Here he served an apprenticeship to a ship-carpenter, and, when seventeen, sailed on the ship "Harvest Home" to Whitehead, England, where he completed the learning of his trade, and from which place, in 1823, he sailed for New York City, where he settled. In 1828 he joined the ship "Sampson," a vessel bound for London. At that port he shipped on board the East India Company's ship "Duke of Sussex," in which he made a voyage to Calcutta and Bombay, at which place he arrived during the ravages committed by a cholera epidemic in 1832. From Bombay the vessel proceeded to Canton, China, where, having loaded a cargo of tea, he sailed for London; here, in 1833, he joined the schooner "Bonanza," and in 1834 landed at Monterey, California. Here, and at Santa Cruz, Mr. McLeod remained for eighteen months, trading with the Mexicans and Indians in tallow and hides, when the vessel, taking Mr. McL. and his freight on board, sailed for London. From the metropolis of Great Britain he once more returned to New York, and shipped on board the "Champlain" to Liverpool, sailing thence to Canton, China, and Manilla, in the Phillipine Islands, where, securing a cargo of rice, they returned to Canton. From this port our voyager traded to Batavia, in the island of Java, in rice, at the end of which he again returned to New York in 1838. For the next ten years Mr. McLeod passed most of his time in trading between that city and Liverpool, until, in December, 1849, he sailed for Panama in the steamship "Philadelphia." On arrival there he took passage in the "California" and arrived in San Francisco in January, 1850, and at once proceeded to Benicia, where he commenced working at his trade in the employ of the Pacific Mail Company. There he remained until August, 1851, when he went to the Southern mines, prosecuting that life in Sonora and other places for a short time, after which he made for Sutherland's creek, Wood's creek, and other mining localities, until he returned to San Francisco and worked at his trade. This was, however, but for a little while, for shortly after, in 1853, we find him established in a building and repairing yard in Redwood City, a business he continued with much success until 1860, when he came to Vallejo and has since found employment on Mare Island Navy Yard. Mr. McLeod married in Jersey City, Novem-

ber 25, 1842, Mary Farrier, a native of Scotland, who died in Vallejo, March 9, 1878, by whom there are three children living: Mary J., Sarah E., and Isabella.

**McPIKE, A. J.**, is a native of the State of Illinois having been born on February 10, 1832. In the year 1852 he emigrated to California crossing the plains with an ox-team having left his home on March 23d and arrived at Hangtown (now Placerville) on September 22 of the same year. Remained at Reservoir Hill near Placerville during the winter of 1854, organizing and teaching a common school but not meeting with sufficient encouragement he abandoned that profession and took his departure for Sacramento, arriving there in January, 1855, when he in company with two others engaged in the traffic of young cotton-wood trees. His next enterprise was that of freighting from Sacramento to Yankee Jims, Auburn, Iowa Hill, etc., with a six-mule team. In June of the same year he entered into partnership with three others and contracted to build about four miles of flume on the old Eldora ditch from Michigan Bluffs up Eldora cañon, which enterprise was surmounted in spite of many difficulties. In May, 1862, Mr. McPike came to Vallejo, but in common with others, in the following October he went to Washoe, arriving in Virginia city on the 23d of that month. At this time he visited all the principal mines and worked in one of the most celebrated, and thereafter took a situation in the wholesale grocery house of Sydnor & Carlyle as salesman, remaining with them and their successors Sloat & Finney until September, 1863. The White House was just being completed; he leased the same and carried on the business successfully for two years, when he sold out on account of failing health, and visited, in August, Plumas county, and there invested in hydraulic and gravel mines. In October he revisited Virginia city where he married, immediately after returning to Genesee, on Grizzly Creek, where he had established his residence. At the time Mr. McPike had taken an active part in local politics and the Democratic party, to which he had always adhered, having been that year successful, he was tendered the position of Deputy Sheriff by the Sheriff elect, James H. Yeates, which he accepted, still retaining his mining interests, but Yeates' election was contested by the Republican nominee, Stephen J. Clark, and given by the Courts in favor of the former, but on appeal to the Supreme Court the decision of the lower Courts was reversed and Clark installed in the office. In the whole of the transactions connected with this case, which at the time created much interest, the subject of this sketch took a prominent part.

In May, 1867, he returned to his mining interests at Genesee and Grizzly Creek, in August of the following year sold out at a great sacrifice, and in September following moved to Chico, Butte county, residing there

until March, 1869. On the 17th of that month he arrived in Vallejo, where he has since resided. From 1869 to 1872 he was employed as book-keeper and salesman to W. Stannus Shellhorn and William and W. N. Stannus, and in July, of the latter year, he was tendered the position of book-keeper, cashier and collector to the Vallejo City Water Company, a position which he still holds. In March, 1874, Mr. McPike was elected a member of the Board of Education, Vallejo, having again been elected in 1876; in this year he was also Secretary to Naval Lodge, of F. A. M., as well as for the Naval Royal Arch Chapter, and is now Most Worthy Patron of Silver Star Chapter, O. E. S., No. 3, and has been agent, at Vallejo, for nearly three years of the Ætna, of Hartford, Insurance Company. In 1876, was appointed, by Governor Samuel J. Tilden, Commissioner of Deeds for the State of New York, and has received a like position from Governor Grover, of Oregon.

Mr. McPike married, at Virginia city, October 3, 1864, Miss Bettie Hali-day, by whom he has: La Fayette, born on Grizzly creek, June 25, 1865; Willie, born October 31, 1867; Andrew Jackson, born at Vallejo, August 30, 1869; Henry, born December 5, 1871. Mrs. McPike died March 27, 1874. He married, secondly, November 3, 1874, Miss Minerva Domigan, of Sonoma, and has: Charley, born January 30, 1876; and Mary M. born, November 20, 1877.

**MURPHY, CHARLES**, born on Bere-island, in the bay of Bantry, about 1822. At the age of three or four the family moved to the main land, within a mile of the town of Castletown, Berehaven, county Cork, Ireland. Sailed from Liverpool in the ship "Torilento," and landed in New York in June, 1840; after remaining there some time went to New London, Connecticut, then returned to New York. In 1844 went to Philadelphia; thence to Richmond, Virginia, and from there to Norfolk, where he sailed in the clipper ship Viola, Capt. Fitzgerald, for Chagres, and sailed for San Francisco in the brigantine Soledad, 84 passengers from Norfolk, Va. Went to Sacramento on a sloop, the passage-money being \$32; then staged to Sutter's mill, Coloma. Two days after, started for Ford's bar on the middle fork of the American river. Returned to Sutter's post office. Went on a prospecting trip; failed to get anything. Next went to Georgetown; started for the North Yuba, via Kelly's bar, north fork of American river, and Johnson's ranch, on Bear river. Some time after went on the Gold-lake expedition, where he met his friend Michael Kane, of Front street, feeding on wild potatoes and leeks. In January, 1852, while searching for mules the Indians had driven off, was shot through the arm and laid up three months. On August 28, 1852, with four or five others, discovered and located the Buttes quartz mine; laid claim to 1500 feet. Afterwards engaged in the building business in San Fran-



cisco; next went to Mare Island Navy Yard and there worked a year: this was in 1859. Next employment was the building of St. Francis Catholic church, at Vallejo. Lastly, the excavation for the stone dry dock, for which he claims \$90,000. The case is set for trial in April, 1880. At present he is attending to his vineyard, about three miles from Napa City, and a farm of 800 acres, two miles distant from the same. Resides at Vallejo. Is married, but has no family.

**NORTH, JOHN**, dealer in groceries and provisions; was born in Nova Scotia, in the year 1823. In 1841 he first left his home, and was variously employed in different parts of the Eastern States until 1852, when he arrived in San Francisco, and resided there till the beginning of 1853, when he moved to Mare Island and managed a boarding-house, for Seacor, Harmon & Co., continuing there until the winter of 1854, when he again returned to San Francisco and engaged with Jones Coll, in the dairy business, and once more returned to Vallejo, having purchased the interest of Joseph Turner in the Central Hotel, he remaining interested in that establishment for one year. In 1855 he retired from the hotel and purchased a farm in the vicinity of Vallejo, for the purpose of rearing stock. In 1865 Mr. North disposed of his ranch, and, accompanied by his wife went to visit their relatives. On arriving at Amesbury, they found that, in the interval between leaving California and arriving at their destination, by a strange fatality, Mrs. North's mother had died in Massachusetts, while his own had departed this life in Nova Scotia—a double stroke of ill-news. Now Mr. North invested in a farm at Wenham, Massachusetts, upon which he resided for twelve months, when he disposed of it and went to Nova Scotia, returning to Amesbury and engaging in the grocery business. In 1869 he again arrived in California, and in 1870 established himself in his present business. Mr. North married in 1865, in St. Louis, Sierra county, Matilda, daughter of Aaron and Elizabeth Osgood, of Amesbury, Massachusetts.

**O'BRIEN, THOMAS E.**, is a native of New York City, having been born there on January 26, 1850. In 1852 he came with his parents to California, and first settled in San Francisco. When five years of age he accompanied them to Vallejo, and in 1871 he went to Sacramento, where he was employed for three years in an auction house, when, in 1874, he returned to Vallejo and opened his present place of business as a furniture dealer.

**O'GRADY, FRANK**, born in Columbia county, New York, in 1848. In the year 1854 he went with his parents, who settled in Rockford, Winnebago county, Illinois, and followed the movements of the Illinois Central



railroad till it reached Galena, and from thence to Grant county, Wisconsin. In 1861 he removed to California and served his time as carriage-maker, and worked at his trade for five years. Went into partnership in 1870 with his brother, who, having died, he associated himself with R. McDermott, in the Empire Soda Works. Is Captain of the Valjejo Company of Rifles, National Guard of California.

**PEARSON, GUSTAVUS C.**, was born at Ravenna, Portage County, Ohio, July 17th, 1827, and with his parents went to Chicago, Illinois, arriving early in June, 1832, at the time when an Indian war, known as the Black Hawk War, was at its height. Chicago was an insignificant trading post, guarded by a stockade, called by courtesy Fort Dearborn. There was no harbor or wharf. Vessels that occasionally visited this remote post anchored some distance from shore, landing passengers and discharging freight with small boats on the sandy beach of the lake, near the outlet of the sluggish stream called Chicago, or Skunk River, by the aborigines. Upon arrival the Pearsons were kindly invited by Colonel Whistler, who was a friend of the family and in command of the fort, to reside inside the stockade. They remained until the arrival of General Scott, with troops, in July of 1832. These troops came by steamer—the first that broke these prairie solitudes with the roar of steam. Cholera made its appearance immediately after, causing an exodus from the place of all who could leave. Mr. Pearson's father took his family to Danville, Illinois, one hundred and twenty-five miles south of Chicago, which was the nearest point of safety from Indians, a company of rangers being stationed there.

In 1836 the father of Mr. Pearson was appointed Judge of the Northern District of Illinois, which embraced a number of counties in the eastern and northern parts of the State. A residence in the district was required, and he removed to Joliet, Will County, Illinois.

The subject of this sketch was well grounded in the classics at an early age, having received the care of a kind and scholarly father as well as excellent teachers: attended Bishop Chase's Jubilee College in Peoria county, Ills.; the Clarkson Academy, Monroe county, New York, and Alleghany College, Meadville, Pennsylvania.

In 1844, to gratify his father, rather than follow his own inclinations, he began the study of law with Judge McRoberts, in Danville, Ills. The year following a position was secured with Joel A. Mattison (afterwards Governor of Ills.) at Joilet, Ills., who carried on an extensive and diversified business—wholesaling and retailing, manufacturing, contracting, banking, etc. The fundamental principles acquired in this practical school of business ripened into a knowledge of the affairs of life which were of inestimable advantage to a young man who had determined on becoming a merchant.

In 1847, a Mr. Ingersoll headed a small company, composed of persons residing in the vicinity of Joliet, and started for Oregon and California, across the plains. Mr. Mattison held a power of attorney for disposing of an amount of property left by Ingersoll. The year following instructions came from Ingersoll (who had reached California a short time before gold was discovered) to dispose of his property; purchase, and ship five hundred barrels of dried apples, by water, to San Francisco, and give whatever remained to his relatives — that he was a millionaire, etc. A member of the Ingersoll company, named Cutting, returned to Joliet in September, 1848, and brought \$2,700 in gold dust which he had taken out of a claim with pan and shovel in three weeks. This man confirmed all that Ingersoll had written. The people of Joliet were not exceptional; the whole country was wild with excitement concerning the new El Dorado.

Mr. Pearson was thoroughly imbued with the spirit of adventure; and although offered every inducement by Mr. Mattison, even that of a partnership interest, if he would remain, fitted out a wagon and ox team, started for California, March 18, 1849; passed through Illinois and Iowa; crossed the Missouri river at St. Joseph, Mo., May 1st, arriving at Salt Lake City in June, remaining until September. While among the Latter Day Saints, Mr. Pearson familiarized himself with the working of their institutions; reaped, with a sickle, five acres of wheat; threshed it with a flail, and winnowed it with the wind, by pouring the grain with a measure from a staging, upon a wagon cover spread upon the ground: forty bushels of clean wheat — one fifth of the amount — was his reward for this labor.

Brigham Young, who, in the earlier part of the season, had been more than friendly towards the emigrants, showed his true character as soon as they were in his power. He offered them the alternative of joining the Mormon Church or making a wagon road from Salt Lake city to California by way of Severe river, Rio Virgin, Mohave river and San Bernardino; frankly declaring that it was an arduous and dangerous undertaking, but a service the "*Gentiles should perform for the Saints,*" as they intended to colonize the country along the route as soon as it was opened. A majority of the emigrants destined for California chose road making, however difficult, to mormonism and its abominations. Mr. Pearson, with a party not encumbered with families, were first to start on this journey of more than seven hundred miles, over rugged mountains, through deep gorges, across arid deserts, without guides or knowledge of the country to be traversed, which was infested with hordes of savages ever on the watch to murder and plunder. Constant vigilance was required on the part of this little band of pioneer road makers; many lives were lost, and many hair-breadth escapes made, the subject of our sketch,

with another member of the company, when in pursuit of mules that had been stolen the night before, were decoyed into an ambushade and fought their way back to camp, several miles distant. At Archilet, or Hernandez Spring, Nevada, where they stopped to recruit the starved animals, several young men volunteered to push forward for California on foot, taking only what could be carried upon their backs, giving the remainder of their provisions and use of their teams to the starving and destitute families that had overtaken the pioneer company at several points on the route. After great suffering from hunger and thirst, having gone two days and nights without water or food, this party of volunteers reached, Cocomungo ranch, forty miles southeast of Los Angeles, remaining for several weeks, until the arrival of their teams. These wagons were the first that ever passed through the Cahon Pass, which had been considered only practicable for pack mules.

Mr. Pearson took passage by schooner from San Pedro, arriving in San Francisco the last of November, 1849. His first night on shore was quite different from what travelers experience at present. His bed was the sand of North Beach, wrapped in his blanket, with the rain pouring down upon him. Not to be idle, he accepted a situation for a few days in an auction store, until he could get passage to Sacramento on the "McKim," paying \$25 from San Francisco to Sacramento, on his way to Bidwell's bar, on Feather river, where he prospected the middle fork of that river as far up as the American bar. Returning to Marysville, procured an outfit and started for the head-waters of the Yuba, prospecting the Rough and Ready, Grass Valley and Nevada districts, discovering some rich diggings. The idea at that time was, that vast aggregations of coarse gold could be found at or near the heads of the rivers and creeks flowing from the snow-clad summits, and the highest point that could be reached at that time, on account of snow, was Poor Man's creek; this proving rich, (the first pan of dirt prospecting over seventy-five dollars), the summer of 1850 was passed here, good luck attending the labors of our prospector, who, coming to San Francisco in September, sent a portion of his acquisition to an uncle in Pennsylvania, for investment, purchased a stock of goods for the southern mines with the balance. Owing to want of rain, no mining could be done. He sold out immediately and went to Owsley's bar, on the Yuba, where he engaged in butchering, and running several quicksilver machines. In February, 1851, he purchased mules and started for Rich bar and east fork of Feather river, with mining outfit and provisions; was there at the time of the famine, when flour commanded \$3 00 per pound. Spent several months prospecting on the head-waters of Feather and Yuba rivers; secured claims on Durgon flat, near Downeyville, wintering at Toll's dry diggings. Returned to Chicago in October, 1852, where he built the Rock Island House, on the corner of Twelfth and Clark streets, the first hotel in that part of the city.



In the fall of 1853 Mr. Pearson came again to California and engaged in farming, near Sacramento city, upon land that was regarded as worthless, by the Spaniards. The first crop of wheat, sown in February, yielded over forty bushels to the acre of grain, weighing sixty-three pounds per bushel. Fruit trees and a vineyard were set out, which proved the land to be far superior to the bottom, or overflowed ground, which General Sutter declared was all that could be cultivated.

In the summer of 1855, a party from Sherlock's creek, Mariposa county, started for Yosemite valley, the Indians saying there was *mucho oro* (much gold) there; instead of which, they found the now famed "land of mountain and the flood." August 15th, 1855, this party, among them Mr. Pearson, laid claim to the valley, hewing the bark from the side of a huge pitchpine tree, standing at the west or lower end of the valley, near where the trail crossed the Merced river; upon the bared trunk they set forth their claim to the valley, with the names of the claimants, eleven in number.

In 1856 Mr. Pearson returned to Chicago and embarked in the general commission business with marked success, until the year 1867, when failing health compelled his retiring. In 1867 he located at Vallejo, which, from its position, favored milling and grain-shipping; when returning to California he brought the plans for a grain-elevator, and outlined the plans for operating it by a company—which was organized. There being no statutory provision relative to warehouse receipts, he drafted a bill, which failed to become a law. Mr. Pearson, fully aware of the necessity of such a law, in order that the enterprise should be successful, withdrew from any active participation, but gave the company his plans, from which was erected the first and only grain elevator on this coast. After repeated failures, Mr. Pearson finally succeeded in having this warehouse bill passed April 1, 1878. The advantages derived from such a law, by all classes, is manifest throughout the Northwestern States.

A partnership was formed in 1868 between Mr. G. C. Pearson and Mr. A. D. Starr, under name of Pearson & Starr, for carrying on a general commission business. They located and built the Starr mills, at Vallejo, one of the largest and best-arranged mills in the world. The firm was dissolved about the first of January, 1871, Mr. Pearson selling out to Mr. Starr. September 13, 1864 Mr. Pearson married Hattie, youngest daughter of Judge A. C. Brown, of Ogdensburg, New York. They have had four children—three sons and one daughter.

Though determined and positive in character, with decided convictions, Mr. Pearson is not sectarian in religious matters, nor a partisan in politics. He writes and speaks his sentiments freely, never hesitating through fear of being unpopular. His predilections are democratic, and sympathizes with the people. He shuns notoriety, and has never accepted a nomina-



tion or held any office. He is a member of the "Old Settlers' Society," of Chicago. The records of said society being burned in the great fire, he, in 1876, presented the old records—which he had kept—to the Historical society of that place.

**POWELL, ABRAHAM**, lumberman, of Vallejo. Was born in the city of Philadelphia, on the 24th day of January, 1828. At the early age of twelve he visited the West India islands, with Captain John Rue. In 1841 he sailed from his native city in the bark "Madoline," Captain William Shanklin, to Europe, making the return trip in the same vessel. This voyage, which occupied the lengthy period of seventy-three days, was of the most tedious nature, and the hardihood of the young voyager was much tested, for provisions ran out among the steerage passengers, of whom there were a great number, so that all on board were necessarily placed on the meagre allowance of one bran biscuit and a quart of water per diem for three weeks, a lesson of endurance which has not been lost on our hero through his stirring life. In his early days Mr Powell was employed in the Navy Yard in Philadelphia, and there learned the trade of a ship-joiner and civil engineering, under his father, remaining at this occupation until 1849. On the 2d December, 1846, he married Sarah L., daughter of James Paxon, of Philadelphia, the ceremony being performed by the Reverend Thomas Brainard, at what was then known as the Old Pine Street church. Mrs. Powell was born on 23d October, 1829, in the native city of her husband.

The intelligence of the discovery of gold in California having now taken the world by storm, every face looked eagerly toward the New Dorado, and Mr. Powell, among thousands of others, started for the land of gold. Leaving Philadelphia, his family, and early associations, he took passage on the brig "Osceola," on the 16th day of January, 1849, and on the morning of Sunday, the 5th August, after a voyage of 202 days round Cape Horn, twelve of which were passed at Rio de Janiero, in the Brazils, and fourteen at Talcahuana, on the coast of Chili, he anchored in the beautiful bay of San Francisco. Mr. P., with characteristic energy, was up and doing. He entered into partnership with one of his fellow-passengers named William Butcher, in the business of builders and joiners. They had brought out many of the necessaries for carrying on their trade—even the frame work for houses was not forgotten—and at once established themselves in San Francisco, on Jackson street above Kearny, having erected their own premises, on the site now occupied by the old Philadelphia Engine house, No. 12. Orders now came in fast; their first was to build the old Philadelphia auction-house, for Berry & Middleton, on Jackson street. At this business did he continue till the beginning of 1850, when he returned to the Eastern States, via Panama. Finding

himself once more in the town of his birth, he assumed his old position in the Navy Yard, where he continued till September, 1854, when he received the responsible post of master-joiner to the yard at Mare Island, in California, a new station just established on the Pacific coast.

On the 5th of September, after only a very few days preparation, we find Mr. Powell, this time accompanied by his family, once more turned towards the golden west, and, on the 1st October, 1854, he reported his arrival to Captain D. G. Farragut, assumed the duties of his office, and resided on the the island for three years, from which time, until the year 1858, he had full control of all the building operations in the yard. Between the years 1858 and 1861 Mr. Powell went home on furlough, and again returned to Mare Island and filled his former position. In 1864, in conjunction with his own legitimate employment, he was called upon to perform the duties of Civil Engineer, both of which offices he continued to fill up to July, 1865, when he finally severed his connection with the Government. In this year he commenced the lumbering business in Vallejo, a branch of industry which he still pursues. Mr. Powell is a prominent member of the Society of California Pioneers, and in 1869, on the occasion of the *fete* given to that body when the Central and Union Pacific Railroads were joined, he, accompanied by a portion of his family, made the excursion to New York, attended the banquet tendered to them at Delmonico's on the 13th October, and returned to the State in the following November. In 1874 once more did Mr. Powell visit the Eastern States, on this occasion, to be present at the death, as he was led to expect, of his mother, who had reached the ripe age of 88 years. On such an errand he thought not of tide nor time, but traveled night and day, and on arrival found that his mother still lived; whether the sight of her son, now full of years and blessed with much of the world's goods, gave her a new lease of life, or what other cause soever, suffice it to say, that she rapidly improved in health, and it was not till full three years after that she was called to "that bourne from whence no traveler returns," at the old age of 91. Mr. Powell is a man of vast and varied information; his conversational powers are of the most captivating kind, abounding with anecdote and full of humor, while, as a citizen, he is held high in the esteem of the public. Added to these qualifications, a goodby list in themselves, he is a prominent Mason. He was Master of Naval Lodge while working under dispensation, and was continued so after the charter was received from the Grand Lodge of California, while he holds high degrees in both the York and Scottish Rites of Masonry. Mr. Powell's family consists of James H., born in Philadelphia, Nov. 2, 1847; Mary L., born in Philadelphia, May 1, 1851; Abraham, born on Mare Island, August 8, 1855; Priscilla Florence, born in Vallejo, June 10, 1864; Eva Paxson, born April 2, 1866; Lurena Blanche, born May 19, 1868; Fannie Elizabeth Vallejo, born February 17, 1858, died March 5, 1863.

Mr. Powell was one of Vallejo's first School Directors, and for many years a member of the Board of City Trustees, and chairman of the same; also, one of the founders of its charter.

**RICHARDSON, HENRY DOUGLASS**, was born in Maumee, Ohio, October 18, 1847. His father's name was George, and mother's, Mary Louisa Richardson, who moved from the place of his birth about one year thereafter to the city of Buffalo, New York, in which place he was apprenticed to the printing business, which he was engaged in at the breaking out of the Rebellion. At the time of the raid into Pennsylvania, in 1863, the 74th regiment of the N. Y. S. N. G. was called out and sworn into the national service. At the time the subject of this sketch was a drummer in company "G," of that regiment, and with them went to the scene of conflict. After the battle of Gettysburg, the riots at New York and other cities took place, the regiment was transferred from Pennsylvania to New York city, where it remained until the riots ceased, when they were ordered back to Buffalo and there mustered out of the U. S. service. Immediately following, Mr. Richardson shipped in the navy, for one year, sent to New York, and was attached to the U. S. S. store ship "Courier," that was employed in carrying ammunition and provisions to the South Gulf squadron. The last voyage in this ship was from Boston bound for New Orleans, which place she never succeeded in reaching as she ran on the reef at Lypiard's Keys, Abbaco Island, and was sunk within an hour after she struck, in the dead hour of night. The crew, with Mr. Richardson among the number, were enabled to reach the shore by the aid of the ship's small boats in safety. The island was barren of vegetation, but the crew were enabled to subsist on bread that was saved and large green turtles that were caught. For sixteen days they remained on the Island, until one of the boats that had been fitted up and, with a crew, of which Mr. Richardson was among the number, sent to Nassau, N. P., for assistance, which was secured in shape of a schooner that was lying in that port, partly loaded with old junk that had been gathered for shipment to the United States. The schooner came to the island for the remainder of the crew, some ninety in all. But before she was ready to depart for the States, the yellow fever broke out that caused a further detention on the island; several of the castaways sickened and, in a short time, died. Finally the scourge abated, and the vessel proceeded to New York and went into quarantine and the crew transferred to the U. S. S. "Union," from which ship Mr. Richardson was discharged, his term of enlistment having expired. From New York he went back to his home in Buffalo, and remained until just before the close of the war, when he re-enlisted in the navy and again went to New York; and, at that time, the U. S. S. "Pensacola" was being fitted out for the Pacific Squadron, and to which



man-of-war Mr. Richardson was sent aboard as ship's printer. The vessel came out to California in 1867, calling in at all of the principal ports on the Atlantic as well as the Pacific side of the continent. In 1869, his service having expired, he went to San Francisco and started in the printing business for himself, but, it not proving as remunerative as expected, he sold the establishment and came to Vallejo, February 22, 1870, and secured a position on the "Vallejo Evening Chronicle," where he remained for some three years, and then was engaged in the cigar and tobacco trade for himself, on Georgia street, opposite the Bernard House, for a year and a half, after which time he gave it up and went to work on the navy yard, in charge of the government printing office, and remained until March 1, 1879, when he secured a position as "local" on the "Vallejo Evening Chronicle," where he is engaged at the present time. Mr. Richardson is a Republican in politics, and, during his residence in Vallejo, has three times been elected as a delegate to the Republican County Convention. On March 23, 1876, he was married to Miss Jennie Alice Pratt, of and at Grass Valley, California, who was born in Utah, May 29, 1858, and is now 21 years of age. The lady's father and mother's name was Mr. W. O. and Mrs. C. Pratt. They have had two children born unto them, one of whom, a daughter, Mabel Alice, is living; the first, also a daughter, having died when an infant. Mr. Richardson is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and other societies. In the Odd Fellows' Order he has attained the highest rank obtainable in the Subordinate and Encampment branches of the Order, and for the past four years has been successively elected to the office of M. W. District Deputy Grand Master, of that Order, for this District, comprising all of the Lodges in Solano county. Mr. Richardson, at one time, was President of Neptune Hose Company, and one of the trustees of the Odd Fellows' Library Association at its organization. He has, at various times, been solicited to accept the nomination for office under the county or city, but has declined each and all that have been tendered him.

**ROBINSON, A. T.**, was born in Bristol, Waldo County, Maine, September 14, 1828. In 1836 he, with his parents, moved to Montville, Waldo County, Maine, where he was engaged with his father, farming, until twenty-one years old, when he took up his abode in Ellsworth, Hancock County, Maine. Commenced business on his own account in the butcher's trade. Here he married Mary L., daughter of Captain James Plummer, of Bristol, Maine, on June 12, 1853. In March, 1854, they came to California, on the ship "North Star" to Panama, then on the "Yankee Blade" to San Francisco, arriving on May 6th of that year, but went to Nevada City shortly after, working in a livery stable owned by John A. Lancaster. Eight months thereafter purchased some mines, which he operated until



the Fall of 1857, when he came to the Sacramento Valley, in Yolo County, where he farmed and raised sheep. During his residence—in 1859 or 1860—he purchased one half-interest in the livery stable of John A. Lancaster, at Nevada City, from Mr. Saxly, the junior partner of the firm. He sold his interest about four years ago. He maintained a continuous residence in Yolo County until 1870, at which time he came to Vallejo, buying a stock of goods of Mr. Van Schaack. A. J. Plummer is now his partner, and they are doing business under the firm name of Plummer & Robinson. Since Mr. Robinson's residence in Vallejo he took an active part in organizing the Vallejo Savings and Commercial Bank, and was appointed one of its directors, being a heavy stockholder. During the bank's financial troubles a few years since, and when all thought it must surrender, Mr. Robinson accepted the position as its president, and was one of the number who paid all its indebtedness, again placing it on a solid foundation, and then resigned his position. His children are Thomas L., born June 23, 1858; Elmore E., born February 5, 1862; Mary L., born December 3, 1866; Ralph, born August 23, 1869.

**ROE, GEORGE**, was born in Elmira, New York, August 28, 1854. He came to California in March, 1870, with his parents, and took up his residence in Suisun, Solano county, where he clerked for several months in Dr. J. F. Pressley's drug store. In the Fall of 1870 the family moved to Vallejo, and in December, 1871, young Roe entered the office of the "Solano Democrat," a weekly paper published by Thompson & Linthicum, as printer's devil. He was soon promoted to the case, and afterward, when his employers started the "Daily Independent," he was made city editor. Subsequently he purchased the material of the office, and commenced the publication of a daily morning paper.

**RONEY, JAMES**, a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was born September 20, 1847, and here received the ordinary elements of education as well as the academical branches of learning. When only sixteen years old he went out to defend the honor and integrity of his country he loved so well, enlisting in Company B, Second Pennsylvania Artillery, serving in the Army of the Potomac, and honorably discharged at the close of the war. April 1, 1869, he emigrated to this State, coming via the Isthmus, and settled in Vallejo. On June 30, 1874, he bought the "Vallejo and San Francisco Express," and is now transacting the business with Mr. Good, the firm being Good & Roney. Married, in Vallejo, Miss Anna E., daughter of William Shillingsburg, on July 31, 1870. William S., born April 19, 1872; Isabella M., born August 18, 1874; Walter A. and George A., born December 18, 1876; and Jessie, born March 26, 1879; are the names of their children.

**SAUNDERS, JAMES O.**, born in Gottenburg, Sweden, on December 13, 1819, remaining there till he was bound apprentice to Captain James Nye, on board the brig "Fornax," in which he sailed for New Bedford, Massachusetts, where he arrived on November 10, 1830. Was with Captain Nye for two years, when he left, but still continued to follow the mercantile marine till 1837, when he returned to Sweden to visit his mother, and in that year brought her out to America. In 1843 he first shipped in "the service," and served in the "Falmouth," sloop-of-war, one year, afterward in the "Constitution" for thirty months, during which he sailed round the world, having visited China and other countries, arriving on the Pacific coast on January 1, 1846, off Monterey. Immediately after proceeded with the squadron, under Commodore John P. Sloat, to Mazatlan, where they anchored for three months; after which he sailed, calling at Valparaiso and Rio de Janeiro, convoying eight vessels from the latter port to Boston, where they paid off in 1846. In the Fall of the same year he reshipped in the "Edith," belonging to the Quartermasters' Department, and sailed for the coast of Mexico, acting as a transport, and remaining there until the cessation of hostilities, when he returned to New York, in June, 1847. Mr. Saunders next purchased a sloop, and sailed out of New York for six months; and having reshipped, ultimately came back to New York, and remained there till 1849, when, on March 2d, he sailed in the ship "Loo Choo," of Boston, for California, and arrived in San Francisco on September 8th of that year. He lost no time in going to work, first as a lighterman, but, only remaining at this occupation for two weeks, he went to Hangtown, now Placerville, and stayed there a week, and finally left in disgust. He then moved to Sacramento, and there bought a lighter, and started for San Francisco. On the way he and his partner chopped four cords of wood, which they sold on the journey for twenty-five dollars per cord. On arrival at San Francisco, went to chopping wood on Mission Bay, and, bringing it round to the city, he sold the four cords at fifty dollars each. He now employed himself with lightering until the end of June, 1850, when he returned to the mines, going to the Yuba River, at a place called Indian Valley. Stayed there two months, and returned to San Francisco, and again engaged at lightering till November; when he went to the southern mines in Garota, Big Oak Flat, where he settled down for the Winter, having built himself a log cabin and made all snug. In the Spring of the following year proceeded to Maxwell's Creek, remaining there six weeks; then returned to San Francisco, where he arrived on May 4, 1851, two or three days after the big fire, when the whole city was in ashes. Mr. Saunders now shipped on the "Northerner," for New York, arriving there in June, and after two months he removed to Detroit, Michigan, where he lived two years, and once more sailed for California, arriving on April 1, 1854. After sojourn-

ing in San Francisco for three months we again find Mr. S. on the Feather River, where he worked till the month of November, when he again sought San Francisco and recommenced boat-work, which he continued till March 1, 1855, when he came to Vallejo and got employed in the Navy Yard on Mare Island, where he has been ever since. Is one of the directors of the Vallejo Pioneer's Association. Mr. Saunders married, in Boston, July 26, 1851, Miss Josephine Gunnison, by whom he has living: John O., born August 17, 1853; James H., born August 1, 1856; Charles F., born March 8, 1857; Annie, born October , 1864; and Maria E., born December 25, 1869.

**SHEEHY, ROBERT**, grain merchant, was born in the county of Kerry, Ireland, in 1821, and came to America early in 1849. The spring of the following year found him struggling in the human tide which had set towards California; arriving in Tuolumne County, he first engaged in the occupation of mining in May, 1850, but, only remaining there four years and a-half, he started for the Eastern States, crossed the plains, and purchasing cattle, returned by the same route, bringing his stock with him, and once more entered the Golden State in 1855, establishing himself, in the Suscol Valley, at that time included in Solano County. In the year 1858, he commenced farming on a large scale, an occupation which he now combines with his other business. Mr. Sheehy is the proprietor of 3,000 acres of land in Napa county, a fine estate, which includes large tracts of pasture lands. In 1869 he removed with his family into the city of Vallejo, where he still resides. Mr. Sheehy married in Napa county, on the 8th of January, 1860, Miss Margaret Tormey, a native of Ireland, who was born in 1840, by whom he has five sons, John P., Augustine L., Robert V., Francis B., and Eugene V. P.; and five daughters, Ellen S., Mary A., Josephine, Louisa, and Ada M.

**SHIRLAND, H. R. FRANCIS**, butcher, of Vallejo, was born in Westhaven Rutland county, State of Vermont, on September 22, 1818. In 1828 went to school in Potsdam, St. Lawrence county, New York State, remaining there until he was eleven years of age, when he was seized with a desire to see foreign lands, and ran away to sea; made two voyages to the West Indies, and was, on his return, again sent to school at the Castleton, and afterwards to Poulteney Seminaries, in Rutland county, from whence, he worked with Peter Comstock, in his store at Petersville, Washington county, where he stayed for two years; was then steward of the Troy House, in Troy City, for two years, after which, he went to Howard's Hotel, where he remained five years and six months. In July, 1846, he left the United States and visited, in turn, South America, the East Indies, Cape of Good Hope, Madagascar, Mauritius and Isle of France;



made an attempt to cross the Egyptian Desert from Suez, in the Red Sea, to Alexandria, on the Mediterranean, but did not go further than Aden, in Arabia, from whence, he returned to Bombay, in the East Indies, where he took ship and went to London, England. He, then visited Bremen, in Germany, Havana in Cuba, thence back to New York. At this time the city was in a state of the most intense excitement, on account of the discovery of gold in California. Mr Shirland, therefore, only remained eight days there, when he started for Chagres, on the Atlantic side of the Isthmus, in the steamer "Falcon," calling at Charleston, Savannah, and Havana, thence to port of destination. On arrival he hired a canoe, with one Indian and a boy, to take him up the Chagres river, landed at Gorgona, and performed the rest of the journey into Panama on foot. The year was the eventful one of 1849. At this time there were two thousand one hundred persons at Chagres in one day awaiting passage, and no vessel to take them, but, there was one which had her full complement on board, and to her captain Mr. S. agreed to pay fifty dollars coin, as well as work his passage, to be allowed to proceed in the ship, which he did, and arrived in San Francisco about 18th May, 1849. At once proceeded up the river to Embarcadero, now Sacramento, where there were but four houses, belonging to Sam. Brannan, Priestly & Co., Davis & Rider, and Jones and Brown. The city had been then already surveyed and divided into town lots. The first person he met on the river's bank was Professor Sheppard, of Harvard College, who had come to the Pacific coast on scientific explorations, but was then attired in the typical costume of the Californian pioneer, and driving an ox team. Mr. S. immediately commenced the transporting business, to the mines, with thirteen yoke of oxen, divided into three wagons. In his first trip up to Rose's Bar, on the Yuba, with one division of his outfit, he cleared the sum of \$3,300. He followed teaming with good success till June, 1850, when he sold out for \$76,000, with which, he purchased from the Kelsey's the entire Clear Lake country, of sixty-four miles square, with all the stock, numbering ten thousand head of cattle and a thousand horses. This was a most disastrous speculation, for in eight months after the purchase he was dragging his way to the mines with three mules and an old horse. In February, 1851, he arrived on Salmon river, during the epoch of the memorable starvation, when he carried about \$800 in his bosom, but could not buy a breakfast anywhere. In 1852, along with Capt. Best Reynolds, John Chapman, Bill Stevens, and others, discovered the first quartz ledge on the South fork of Scott's river. A hundred pounds of this rock was despatched to Moffett & Co., assayers of San Francisco, who returned \$13.90 as the proceeds, on the strength of which, he, with his comrades, purchased machinery, shipped it to Oregon, and thereafter brought it 350 miles overland to the river, and erected the first



quartz mill in the northern part of the State. This adventure too was a failure. The following spring returned to Salmon river and bought out a man named Jessup, and all that season cut a quantity of timber. In the winter of 1853, he and Best built the first saw mill on the Salmon river, getting the machinery from San Francisco via Humboldt bay, and conveying it on mules to the place of erection. The mill was a success. In that year built three miles of flume in different "riffles." After remaining there till the fall of 1854, having achieved a certain amount of success, he determined to revisit the Eastern States, and with that view purchased a ticket in the "Yankee Blade," on the voyage in which she was lost. He did not go on board the ship, however, but went to Placer county and engaged in quartz mining. In 1855 commenced business as a butcher at Gold Hill, Placer county, which he carried on till 1860, when he moved to the Allison Ranch mine, in Grass Valley, Nevada county, where he stayed till 1865. In that year followed up the Meadow Lake excitement, after which, went as butcher with the workmen on the Central Pacific Railroad, remaining with them till its completion in 1869. Remained at Truckee until October of that year, when he came to Vallejo and opened a butcher store, which business he still continues. Is a member of the Vallejo Pioneer Association. Mr. Shirland married in 1856, Miss Mary Orr, of New York City, at Pine Grove, Placer county, who died in 1865. By her he has one daughter, Frances, born December 17, 1861.

**SIMONTON, GEORGE W.** The subject of this memoir was born on April 21, 1824, in Waldo, now Knox county, Maine, where he received his early education and resided until December, 1859. In 1848 Mr. Simonton entered that career which has, in after life, placed him at the head of that long list of teachers in California whose scholars are now fast coming into prominence in the world. The first school in which he taught was that in Prospect, Waldo county, prior to which he had been associated with his uncle, Dr. Putnam Simonton, at Searsport, a most accomplished gentleman, and from whom young Simonton received much of that learning which has stood him in such good stead. His next tuition was undertaken in the seminary of the Hon. M. C. Blake, the present Judge of the Criminal Court of San Francisco, after which he entered an academy taught by Rev. Edward Freeman, with whom he remained until the year 1848, when he became Principal of the school, and as such continued till 1859, when he retired, on account of failing health. On December 1, 1859, he sailed from New York city, by way of Panama, and arrived in San Francisco on the day after Christmas of that year. He at once presented himself before the Board of Education, and being examined received a first-grade certificate. Remaining in San Francisco but a short

time he proceeded to Benicia, and there received a school certificate for the county of Solano from Dr. Woodbridge, and proceeded to the Green Valley District, in 1861. Here he remained, teaching school, till 1864, when he came to Vallejo, and there took charge of the public schools on September 2, 1864. At the time of his taking charge of these schools there were but seventy scholars, while his daughter, a young lady of some fifteen years of age, was the only assistant teacher procurable; here Mr. Simonton labored until 1872, when he received a well-earned leave of absence for one year. Proceeding to Ukiah City, Mendocino county, Cal., he there purchased a private school, but giving it up in May, 1873, he returned to Vallejo, and, assuming his former duties, continued to perform them until December, 1874. Mr. Simonton was elected to the position of County Superintendent of Schools in 1863, filled the office for six years, and is now employed in the Constructor's Department in the Navy Yard on Mare Island. He married March 4, 1847, Harriet A. Ross, of Rocklin, Knox county, Maine, who died January 3, 1868, by whom he had eight children, there being now living, Fred. W.; Sophia A.; Frank R.; Willis E. and James G. Married secondly, Mrs. E. J. Monroe, a native of New York State, on April 16, 1870.

**SMITH, JAMES G.**, is a native of Cheltenham, England, having been born January 27, 1836. He came to America in 1857, and having spent one winter in Rochester, New York, went westward, and, on arrival at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, he enlisted as a cattle drover to the Government, for the purpose of driving stock to Salt Lake City. Was there discharged, and in company with fourteen others, made the journey to Sacramento on foot, arriving there in November, 1868. His first permanent settlement was made at Feather river, where he engaged in farming, and having remained there for two years, in the winter of 1860, went to the mines at Nevada city. In the fall of 1864 he arrived at Vallejo, and opened his present studio, where he carries on the business of photographer. Married at Vallejo March, 1865, Adelaide A., daughter of Benjamin Ingolls, of Boston, Mass., by whom he has Cheltie A.; Waldo E.; Alfred G.; and Saxon I.

**STEFFEN, JACOB**, born in Germany, in 1841, where he remained until 1857, and then emigrated to America, and settled in New York city, residing till 1863, when he came to California. He first took up his abode in San Francisco, but, in 1865, moved to Napa, but only sojourned there two years, when he came to Vallejo, and in 1872 commenced his present business. In 1875 he entered into partnership with Mr. M. Forstfeld, under the style of Steffen & Co., in a meat market, which they still continue. Is unmarried.

**TAYLOR, M. D., WILLIAM E.,** Medical Inspector U. S. Navy, was born near Richmond, Virginia, December 7, 1837. Early in life, his parents removed to Winchester, Virginia. Received his education at the Winchester Academy. Graduated in medicine at the Winchester Medical College in April, 1859. Entered the U. S. Navy as Assistant Surgeon on the 3d of July, 1859. His first service was on board the U. S. S. "Savanna," flag-ship of the Home Squadron, from October, 1859, till November, 1860. Joined the U. S. S. "St. Mary's," at Panama, in January, 1861. Remained on board this vessel till May, 1862, during which time she visited a number of ports on the Mexican coast, and spent several months at San Francisco and Mare Island. Returned to the Eastern States in June, 1862. Promoted to the grade of Surgeon U. S. Navy September 5, 1862. On special duty at the Naval Rendezvous and Naval Asylum, Philadelphia, till December, 1862; then on duty on board the U. S. steam-sloop "Iroquois," and subsequently on board the U. S. steam-sloop "Tuscarora," serving in both vessels off the Wilmington blockade until the spring of 1864; then ordered to the U. S. receiving-ship "Ohio," at Boston, Massachusetts, remaining there until the spring of 1866; then ordered to the U. S. iron-clad steamer "Meantonomoh," at New York, in which vessel he made a cruise to Europe, returning to Philadelphia in July, 1867. Placed on waiting orders until October, 1868; then ordered to the Navy Yard at Mare Island, Cal. Reported for duty at that station November 26, 1868. In November, 1871, ordered to the U. S. S. "Pensacola;" from that ship to the U. S. S. "Saranac," in December, 1872; made a cruise of three years in these two vessels. Detached from the "Saranac" November 30, 1874, and ordered to the Navy Yard, Mare Island, Cal. Promoted to the grade of Medical Inspector U. S. Navy on the 31st of December, 1876. Detached from Mare Island on the first of October, 1878. On the first of November, of the same year, reported for temporary duty in charge of the Naval Hospital at Mare Island, Cal. Remained there until December 31, 1878; then detached, and placed on waiting orders.

Dr. Taylor was married in Pittsburg, Pa., October 20, 1863, to Miss Charlotte W. Irwin, a native of that city. He has an only daughter, Grace Lee Taylor; born in Charlestown, Massachusetts.

**THOMPSON, J. D.,** born in Sangamon county, Illinois, March 27, 1846 and resided there until 1859, when he moved with his parents, to Monroe county, Iowa. In 1861 he returned to his native county, and in the following year left for California, arriving in Honey Lake valley, Lassen county, California, in August, 1862. Here he engaged in freight and staging till 1867, when he went to San Francisco, coming to Vallejo on March 10, 1868, being variously employed until 1873, when he established his present draying business. Mr. Thompson married April 28, 1872, Miss



Jennie Currier, by whom he has Frankie J., born July 11, 1873, and Charlie, born September 8, 1876.

**THOMPSON, H. M.**, born in Sangamon county, Illinois, February 25, 1852, where he stayed with his parents until 1858, when they moved to Monroe county, Iowa. In the spring of 1855 he returned to the place of his birth, and came to California in August, 1874, and took up his permanent residence in Vallejo. He married, November 8, 1877, Miss Emma J. Hamner, a native of Ray county, Missouri, by whom he has one daughter, Alice V., born October 8, 1878. Mr. Thompson is occupied in the business of a drayman.

**THORNTON, T. A.**, is a native of Yorkshire, England, where he was born in the year 1826. In 1847 he emigrated to New York, and from there to Massachusetts and back to New York, and finally sailed for California March 5, 1852, arriving in San Francisco in the following April. He was variously employed at his trade of machinist, and at the mines until November, 1853, when he came to Mare Island and commenced working in the sectional dry dock, as Engineer. Has been Dock Master there since 1877. Is a member of the I. O. O. F., and one of the building association for the construction of the hall. Is also a vestryman of the Church of the Ascension. Married, March 29, 1859, Margaret McDowell, a native of New York city.

**TOBIN, J. F.**, was born in Kilkenny county, Ireland, on August 15, 1830. When nineteen years of age he left the green shores of his native country, arriving in America in 1849 and settled in New York, from which place he emigrated to California, landing in San Francisco on July 9, 1855. He remained here only a few months and proceeded to Vallejo, where he at once embarked in the occupation of a butcher, a business he still continues. In connection with this trade, Mr. Tobin has been largely interested in farming and stock-raising enterprises, while at this writing he is classed among the largest land holders in the county he owning no less than three thousand acres of land. Mr. Tobin is a man of much sterling worth; is esteemed by his fellow-citizens, while his energy has brought him to the position which he now holds among his compeers. He married in San Francisco, October 12, 1860, Miss Catharine Lynch, by whom he has a family of five children living: William J., born Sept. 1, 1861; Lizzie, born June 13, 1863; Marie E., born Dec. 18, 1868; Lilly A., born Jan. 1, 1872; and Cecilia, born Dec. 6, 1878. Two children have died, Martin E. and James F.

**VANDERBILT, WILLIAM W.**, was born in New York in the year 1815, where he studied and engaged in the profession of a machinist and engineer.



and afterwards as shipbuilder; was for many years in the service of his cousin, Commodore Vanderbilt, of New York. He was Chief Engineer of the pioneer steamer "California" when she made her voyage to this coast. In 1849, he visited Benicia and, in this connection, relates that water was so deep there that the steamer was made fast to the shore, where she rode in perfect safety. Mr. Vanderbilt was in the employ of the Pacific Mail Company from 1849 to 1869, and for ten years was their General Superintendent of the Bureau of Hulls and Machinery, during which time he designed and superintended the construction of many of the company's largest steamers. Having retired for some time, he again entered the service of the P. M. S. S. Co. in 1873, which he left in the following year to superintend, in the interests of Phineas Burgess, of Brooklyn, New York, the rebuilding of the single turreted monitor "Comanche," and the construction of the double turreted monitor "Monadnock" now building at Vallejo. Is a life member of the Society of California Pioneers of San Francisco, and is a member of long standing of the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons. He was married in New York, in July, 1840, to Miss Sarah Remer, by whom he has two daughters who are married and living in Vallejo.

**WALKER, WILLIAM**, lumberman, was born in Perth, Scotland, and came to America in the year 1842, settling in Albany, New York, and after at Schenectady, New York; when, after a year in each place, he went to Detroit, Michigan. In this State he commenced farming in Lexington county, but, in 1852, he crossed the plains to California, with his family, arriving at Hangtown, now Placerville, in August of that year. There he remained for about eighteen months, when he removed to Sacramento and thence to Benicia, and commenced working in the establishment of the P. M. S. S. Co. as a machinist. Mr. Walker remained eighteen months at Benicia and, on February 1, 1854, came to Vallejo, where he has resided ever since. For the past sixteen years he has been engaged in the lumber trade. He married, first, Jane, daughter of William Allen, of Ayrshire, Scotland, on November 6, 1848, who died in April, 1877, and, secondly, Mrs. Mary A. McKay, on August 18, 1878.

**WARD, JAMES**, of the Bernard House saloon, was born in Ireland on December 18, 1843, and emigrated to this country in 1849, settling in Franklin county, New York, where he lived five years, after which he moved to St. Lawrence county, New York. In June, 1862, he emigrated to Green Bay, Wisconsin, and returned to St. Lawrence county, New York, in 1865, coming to this State on May 25, 1867, and in December of that year, settling in Vallejo, where, up to the commencing of his present business in December, 1876, he was engaged in various pursuits. Married

Mary, daughter of James Rice, September 21, 1877, and has three children: John F., Mary Ann and Margaret.

**WENIGER, CHARLES**, resides at the Summer Resort, about one mile distant from Vallejo. He was born in Prussia, September 13, 1824. In 1842 he emigrated to America, and settled in the city of New York, where he remained till the outbreak of the Mexican war, when he enlisted in the 6th Infantry of N. Y. Volunteers, and proceeded to the scene of hostilities, being present at some of the principal engagements. After one year and nine months' service he was honorably discharged; he then returned to New York, remaining there until 1850, when, on January 6th, he sailed for California, and arrived in San Francisco on February 23d. He soon started in the liquor business, carrying it on till 1855, when he removed to Vallejo, and opened a restaurant. Sold out this business in 1859, and entered on his present premises, which is a great resort for the lovers of sport for that portion of the county. Married, May 16, 1855. Frederika Ovir, a native of Wurtemberg, by whom he has Julia; Charles; George; Emma; Peter; John and Fannie.

**WENTWORTH, JOHN**, was born in Lincoln county, Maine, on January 14, 1827, and, when an infant, was moved by his parents to Waldo county, in the same State, where he remained till 1845, when they returned to Lincoln county, and settled in Thomaston. Here he attended the Academy, but being possessed of a restless and adventurous spirit, the quiet life of a school-boy became monotonous to him; he, therefore, at the age of eighteen, sailed in the ship "Mountaineer," on a voyage to Europe, the cruise occupying six months. On his return he now joined the ship "Pyramid," and again visited Europe, and, making the return voyage, he was thereafter, in 1848, landed at Cairo, Ills., from whence he returned home by way of Cincinnati, Ohio. On his arrival at Thomaston he bound himself apprentice to Nathan Reed, a ship-carpenter of that place; remaining at his trade till 1851, when he proceeded to Virginia, for the purpose of procuring ship's timbers, but remained there only a short time, when he again returned home, and resided there till January, 1853. In this month he sailed for California, and arrived at San Francisco on February 19 of that year. He at once proceeded to El Dorado county, and engaged in mining till 1854, when he returned to the Eastern States, remaining there but three months, when he once more proceeded to El Dorado. In November, 1854, he came to Vallejo, and obtained employment on Mare Island, where he worked at his trade. In 1862 he left the Navy Yard, and engaged in farming, which he pursued for four years. In 1867 Mr. Wentworth was elected Treasurer of Solano county, which office he held for two years. In 1869 he began business as a real estate agent, and continued it till 1875, when, on May 27th of that year, he was appointed Foreman Shipwright on Mare Island Navy Yard. He married at Union,

Maine, October 22, 1852, Miss Maria D. Cummings, a native of that place, by whom he has John W., born in Vallejo, October 3, 1858, and George A., born September 1, 1862.

**WILSON, E. J.**, is a native of New York, having been born in that State in the year 1829, being in the earlier years of his life engaged, principally, in the manufacturing and lumber interests. On the twentieth day of February, 1856, he sailed for California, and arrived in San Francisco in the following month, and remaining there but a short time he proceeded to Shasta county, where he resided for one year, being, for the most part, engaged in mining. In 1857 he came to Vallejo, where he has ever since been identified with many of the interests of that city. Mr. Wilson is President of the Vallejo Savings and Commercial Bank; Vice President of the Vallejo Land and Improvement Association; and is President of the Board of Trustees, to which office he was elected in 1876. He married in 1851, in New York, Miss Helen M. Chamberlain, by whom he has George W., born in 1852, and Hattie, born in 1862.

**WILSON, JOHN**, farmer, in Vallejo Township, was born in county Tyrone, Ireland, and emigrated to America, in 1851, first settling, for a few months, in Philadelphia, and left, on December 25, 1851, for San Francisco, which he reached on March 4, 1852. On his arrival he proceeded to Hangtown, now Placerville, remaining there till the following May, being engaged principally in mining operations; he then moved to Solano county, and was employed by Curtis & Clark, the former owners of his present estate, with whom he stayed till 1855, when, together with his brother, Joseph Wilson, they purchased a drove of 400 head of horses, and took them to New Mexico, where they were exchanged for 4,000 head of sheep, which latter the brothers drove back to their homes on the Suscol Ranch, the undertaking occupying about sixteen months. In 1857 Mr. Wilson purchased a portion of his present farm, 900 acres of which he owns, and has under the finest and latest improvements. He is a large breeder of stock, the horses reared by him being among the finest in the county. Mr. Wilson married in San Francisco, October 10, 1870, Lavonia Wright, a native of Oswego, New York; they have one son, Edward.

**WILSON, JOSEPH**, farmer in Vallejo township, is a native of county Tyrone, Ireland, where he was born in April, 1826. In 1846 he emigrated to the United States, and settled in Philadelphia, but embarked from there in December, 1851, arriving at San Francisco on March, 4, 1852, and at once proceeded to Hangtown, now Placerville, and Weaverville, where he engaged in mining until May, 1852, when he came to Solano county, in company with his brother John, and found employment with Curtis & Clark, the former owners of the estate now owned by the brothers Wilson. In 1858 he purchased and now possesses 854 acres of land, comprised in the finest farming district in the county. Mr. Wilson mar-



ried in Lake county, Indiana, January 15, 1866, Miss Margaret W. Young, a native of Logan county, Ohio, by whom he has Jennie Belle, born October 10, 1866; John Andrew, born July 9, 1868; Joseph Ross, born October 7, 1873; Eldana Agnes, born April 22, 1876, and George Wallace, born January 4, 1879.

**WILLISTON, JOHN EDWARD**, the subject of our memoir, was born in Portsmouth, Norfolk county, Virginia, October 14, 1841, where he continued, with the exception of three years, until 1855, when he went to Boston and there attended school. On April 20, 1858, he embarked for California. Came up on this side on board the steamer "John L. Stephens," arriving in San Francisco May 15th of that year, and came directly to Vallejo, to join his father, who was at the time Assistant Civil Engineer on Mare Island Navy Yard. On July 4th of the same year Mr. Williston, Sr., with his son, left for Victoria, *en route* for the Fraser river, on board the clipper ship "E. F. Willetts," but returned from British Columbia in the following November, per steamer "Santa Cruz," and settled in Vallejo, where the latter has since resided. Mr. John E. Williston was employed in various branches of business up till 1866, when, in partnership with Mr. H. B. Bell, he opened a grocery store, but, unfortunately, in 1869, the establishment was destroyed in the great fire; with that perseverance, however, for which he is so famous, Mr. Williston immediately rebuilt his grocery and continued its business until January 25, 1879, when, on account of failing health, he sold his interest to Mr. D. W. Harrier. He was elected Sheriff of Solano county, by the Democratic party at the general election of September 1, 1875, and the like honor was for the second time conferred upon him on September 5, 1877; he has also served for two years on the Board of Trustees for the City of Vallejo. Mr. Williston is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Mount Moriah Encampment, as also a member and Secretary of the San Pablo Lodge of Odd Fellows. He was also a member of Naval Lodge and Naval Chapter F. & A. M., and a member of California Commandery No. 1, of San Francisco. Married March 29, 1869, Miss Sarah E. McLeod, by whom he has Edgar, Eugene, John E., and Alice B.

**YOUNG ANDREW J.**, born in Lincolnville, Waldo county, Maine, on March 20, 1829, where he resided until 1850, when he moved to Rockland, Knox county, at which place he learned the trade of ship carpenter, remaining there till 1859, when he emigrated to California, crossing the plains, and first settling in San Francisco, where he sojourned until 1870, when he located in Vallejo, of which city he is still a resident. Married K. Ingraham, at Rockland, Knox county, Maine, on August 16, 1855. Mr. and Mrs. Young have an adopted daughter, Effie E., married to Andrew B. Hall, of Petaluma, Sonoma county.



## SUISUN.

**ALDEN E. B.**, of the firm of E. B. Alden & Co., of Napa and Suisun, was born in Lincoln, now Knox county, Maine, January 1, 1839. He received the benefit of the public schools until, at the age of sixteen years, he left home to engage in mercantile pursuits. Went to Boston, Mass., in 1864, where he remained the most of the time until February, 1869, at which time he emigrated to California, remaining in San Francisco for about nine months; from thence removed to Vallejo and became employed on the Navy Yard at Mare Island, where he remained until 1875, at which time he became associated with Mr. A. P. Voorhees, in mercantile trade. The firm removed to Napa city in the spring of 1876, and in September 1878, Mr. Alden established a branch of their business in Suisun, of which place he has since been a resident with his family. Married in Sacramento, October 12, 1870, Lydia E., daughter of Benj. F. Webster, of Knox county, Maine. Their children are: Bertram F., born January 5, 1873; Evie E., born February, 1875, died the following July; Edith May, born February, 1878.

**BARBOUR, NATHAN**, was born in Cayuga county, N. Y., January 12, 1813. When twenty-one years old he moved to Kentucky, then, after three years, to New Orleans, La., trading on the Mississippi river, thence to Andrew county, Mo., where he abode until coming to California in 1846, crossing the plains with an ox-team, and came to the banks of Feather river, in October of that year. A full account of Mr. Barbour's sojournings are given in the county history, up to his coming to his present place in Suisun valley. Married Miss Nancy, daughter of Landy Alford, May 9, 1846. She died October 15, 1868. Armelia (deceased), Eli, Nancy, Nathan, Julie, Nellie May, and Florence Katie are their children.

**BATEMAN, J. K.**, County Superintendent of Schools, a native of Highland county, Ohio, was born January 14, 1850. From a very early period of his life he was a lover of books, and while attending the public schools in his birth-place made rapid progress in his studies, finishing his academical education in the National Normal School, of Lebanon, Warren county, Ohio. In after life the classic poets were added to his store of intellectual enjoyment. September, 1868, then only eighteen years old, he commenced teaching public schools, which occupation he followed up to the time he was elected to his present office, on September 5, 1877. Came

to California, arriving August 31, 1873, settling in this county at Elmira, and, after two years, went to his former home, remaining one year, then returned to this county, settling in Dixon. He is now a resident of Suisun, Cal., beloved by his many friends and respected by the citizens of the place in which he lives.

**BATEMAN, JOHN M. K.**, is a native of Highland county, Ohio, and born 11th December, 1837. Received his education at the National Normal School of Lebanon, Ohio, and the New Jersey State Normal School at Trenton. Left Ohio in May, 1874, and came to California, first settling at Riverside, San Bernardino county; thence to Oakland, and Dixon, Solano county, thence to Santa Cruz, and in June, 1878, came to Fairfield, this county, taking charge of the public schools, which place he now occupies. On September 19, 1868, married Euphemia, daughter of Charles McNeill, who was for five years a member of the Colonial Legislature of Ontario, Canada. Mrs. Bateman was born in Canada, March 30, 1842. Their living children are Victorian, Mary Margaret and Sarah May. Lost three—Minnie Este, Leonard and Daisey.

**BAUMAN, J. H.**, the subject of this sketch, was born in Germany, July 6, 1823. Emigrated to Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1842; thence to Seneca county in the same State. In 1849 he crossed the plains, with a horse team, arriving in Sacramento September 1st of that year. Located on the North Fork of the American River, where he was engaged in mining, but in due time returned to Sacramento, coming down on the Sacramento River, where for a short time he was engaged in farming. Came to Suisun Valley in December, 1850, camping on a farm now occupied by Mr. Buther. He made a continuous residence in and around this valley, herding cattle, until June 14, 1853, at which time he returned to Ohio. On his return to California, in the Spring of 1854, he came via Boone County, Missouri, buying a herd of cattle, which he brought across the plains, arriving in the Montezuma Hills at a place now known as Bauman's Ravine, named in honor of Mr. Bauman, as he was an early settler in the hills, arriving there in the Fall of 1854. Came to his present residence in January, 1862. Married Miss Mary A., daughter of John McMullen, September 20, 1860. John, Elveng H. and Lottie May are their living children. They have lost two, Clarissa and Flora.

**CHRISLER, P. J.**, was born in Ontario County, New York, July 4, 1831, and here he was educated. In 1854 he emigrated to St. Joseph County, Michigan, where he married Sarah M. Pulver, daughter of Fletcher Pulver, of Lyons, Wayne County, New York, January 4, 1858. She was born March 14, 1838. They emigrated to this State, and immediately

settled in Suisun City. Mr. Chrisler was first engaged in the produce trade, on his arrival in this locality, but afterward changed to that of a grocer. In June, 1870, he moved to Vaca Valley, five miles northwest from Vacaville, erected a house, had a Post-office established, over which he presided as postmaster, platted the ground for the purpose of founding a village, which he named Tolenas; but on account of the scarcity of water the project was abandoned, and he returned to Suisun the same year. He is now engaged in the lumber and sewing machine trades, as well as having established one of the most important insurance offices in this county. Leslie J., Minnie A., Jennie Gertrude (the last deceased), Sarah E., William A., Charles D. and Peter Spencer are the names of his children.

**CLAYTON, DAVID J.**, a native of Logan County, Kentucky, born January 30, 1812, where he lived until fourteen years of age, when he moved to Simpson County with his parents, where he resided about thirteen years on a farm. He then went to Jackson County, Missouri, and farmed for thirteen years longer. In March, 1848, he married Miss Rebecca Jane Shaw. On May 15, 1850, he emigrated to California, crossing the plains with ox teams, and arrived in Sacramento in September following. He prospected about the country until February, 1851, when he returned East, via Panama, being on the trip three and a half months. On May 6, 1852, he again returned to California, bringing with him his wife and two children. He arrived in Suisun Valley, Solano County, October 23, 1852, and settled on a farm known as the Baker Ranch, where he lived one year. He then settled on his present ranch, consisting of five hundred and twenty-five acres, situate about seven and a half miles northwest of Suisun City, at the upper end of Suisun Valley. Mary B., deceased, James D., Henry B., Martha S. and William L. are the names of their children.

**COGHLAN, O. R.**, was born in Belleville, St. Clair County, Illinois, January 22, 1847. Here he attended the public schools for four years. In 1859 he went to Richmond, Kentucky, where he worked in a printing office till 1861, when he went to St. Louis, Missouri. Here he became reduced to the most abject poverty, and in order to gain an honorable livelihood he worked in a market garden until September 29, 1862, when he enlisted in the Twenty-ninth Missouri Volunteer Infantry, which was afterward attached to Blair's Brigade, in Steel's Division, Sixteenth Army Corps. On December 29, 1862, he was severely wounded in the right breast, while engaged in battle at Chickasaw Bayou, or Haines' Bluff, and on this account was honorably discharged July 29, 1863. Returning to St. Louis, Missouri, followed the common avocations of life till September



1864, when he took a course of studies in the preparatory department of McKendring College, at Lebanon, Illinois, remaining until January, 1865; thence to Memphis, Tennessee, where he clerked in a wholesale saddlery house, and by industry and honesty was promoted to assistant bookkeeper, and on January 1, 1866, took charge of this department. Emigrated to California September, 1872, settling in this county in November of that year. Commenced the study of law with Judge W. S. Wells, and was admitted to the bar January, 1874. Was elected District Attorney in September, 1877, and is the present incumbent. Married, on February 23, 1876, Madge Redman, daughter of C. C. Redman, Esq. of Santa Rosa. Mary R. is their only child.

**CROCKER, ASA.** This well known old settler came to Suisun City in the Spring of 1854, with Captain Josiah Wing, working for that gentleman, and afterward opened the first restaurant in that village. He emigrated to this State in the bark "Terror," via Cape Horn, arriving in San Francisco June, 1853. For a short time he was on a coasting vessel, and for five months was employed on the ferry-boat "Ion," plying between Benecia and Martinez; then up the Suisun Bay, on the schooner "Ann Sophia," to Suisun, settling as above stated. He is a native of Barnstable County, Massachusetts, and born March 24, 1836, coming to California from this place. Married Miss Anna B., daughter of William Pearson, September 8th, 1861. Horace L. and William Sherman are his living children. Frank M., deceased.

**DAVISSON, OBEDIAH,** was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, July 27, 1810; here he was educated, and learned in the ways of farming; married Hulda Wyatt, September, 1832. In 1845 they moved to Holt county, Missouri; thence, crossing the plains to California in 1854, settled in this township, and on his present farm in September of that year. Has served in the capacity of School Director, and ever takes a lively interest in the education of the young.

Thomas Davisson, his son, was also born in Coshocton county, Ohio, coming with his parents to this place, and has always lived with them. He married Letta Owens, September 9, 1875.

**DAVISSON, W. G.,** was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, August 22, 1833. Emigrated to Holt county, Missouri, in 1845, from which he came to this State, crossing the plains with an ox-team, settling in this township the first of September, 1852. After working in different places he bought his present farm and moved to, and has occupied it since 1854. Has held the office of School-director, and through his influence, as well as others, their school library contains an excellent selection of books, which denotes



a high standard of intelligence, not only for Mr. Davisson, but for the community in which he lives. Married Miss Clara E., daughter of Josiah King, of New York State, on June 19, 1866. Their children are: Clara Gustavia, Ada Francis, William Sherman, Lula Adell and John G.

**DOWNING, M. D., W. G.**, the subject of our *memoir*, was born in Scotland county, Missouri, October 7, 1853. His parents went to St. Louis in 1862, where young Downing, after the usual course of instruction in the grammar school, graduated at the St. Louis University in 1869. He commenced the study of medicine in the Missouri Medical College, in 1870, and took his degree of M. D. in March, 1873. In order to better fit himself for a practitioner, he repaired to the St. Louis City Hospital, remaining three years. January, 1877, he emigrated to Suisun, Solano county, Cal., where he has practiced his profession with marked success.

**DUNN, ALEXANDER**, County Clerk, Solano county, California, was born in Platt county, Missouri, May 7, 1841, and emigrated to California, crossing the plains with his parents, and arriving at Placerville October 10, 1850; from thence proceeding to the Suisun valley December 24 of the same year where they located four miles north of Fairfield, the present county seat. Mr. Dunn attended the first school ever taught in that part of Solano, then kept by John Doughty, and in July, 1852, he moved with his father to Vaca valley, who died there on July 5, 1873. In 1867 he moved to Mendocino county, and in 1869 took charge of the "Mendocino Democrat," continuing its editor for three years, when he returned to Vacaville. Mr. Dunn graduated in the Pacific Methodist College at Vacaville May 14, 1864. In 1873 Mr. Dunn was a candidate for the office of County Surveyor, but was defeated by A. H. Gunning, who appointed him his deputy; Mr. Gunning, however, resigning before the expiration of his term, Mr. D. was appointed to fill the vacancy on July 12, 1875, in which he was confirmed at the general election, held on September 1, 1875. On September 5, 1877, he was elected to the office of County Clerk, and continues to exercise the functions of that position. He married September 25, 1865, Jennie, daughter of J. E. Elder, of Sacramento county, by whom he has Eagan Lee and Virginia Ann.

**EDWARDS, JAMES G.**, born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, April 24, 1822, and resided there till 1826, when he moved to Franklin county, Alabama, from whence he proceeded to Hampstead county, Arkansas, in 1837; after which, in 1849, he emigrated to California, coming across the plains, and arriving October 1st, of that year, at Lawrence bar, Feather river. Engaged in mining for two years, and then came to Suisun valley, in October, 1851, and settled on what is now the farm of John

McMullen. Removed into Suisun city in 1854, and in 1860 came to his present farm of 160 acres, where he has since resided. Married, June 13, 1856, Therza Jane Stone, a native of Missouri, who died August 2, 1867. He has, Alice, born June 18, 1857; Laura, born April 24, 1859; Mary, born December 13, 1862; Charles Henry, born May 6, 1865, and Alabama Josephine, born July 23, 1867.

**FITCH, WILLIAM WAYNE**, was born near Auburn, New York, October, 22, 1816, and removed to Genesee county, near where now stands the town of Nunda, Livingston county, in 1818. Received a course of academical instruction at Wyoming, Genesee county, studied and practiced surveying and engineering under Colonel Elisha Johnson at Rochester, New York. Served under the orders of the Provincial Parliament in exploring railroad routes in Canada west; engaged in preliminary surveys for a railroad company in Ohio; removed to Detroit, Michigan, in 1837, was engaged on public works, government land surveying and private undertakings of a like nature. Came overland to California in 1849 and engaged in mining. In 1854, began surveying land grants under Colonel J. C. Hays, U. S. Surveyor-General for California, and was elected County Surveyor for Solano county, in 1865, which position he held till 1873, and was re-elected in 1877, and now holds the office. Mr. Fitch joined the Advent Christian Church, July 4, 1877.

**GILLESPIE, EDGAR FERGUSON**, (deceased,) among the most worthy of the pioneers of Solano county was the subject of this sketch, who was born at West Farms, Westchester county, New York, December 7, 1822, and died at Suisun on June 22, 1875. Mr. Gillespie when but eight years of age removed to North Bend, Hamilton county, Ohio, with his parents and, on their death, he changed his residence to St. Louis, Missouri, where he was employed as a clerk in a wholesale drug store until 1848, when, in connection with his oldest brother he commenced business in Dubuque, Iowa. The gold fever breaking out in 1849, he sold his interest in his store to his brothers and came across the plains with an ox team, arriving in this State in November of that year. He first engaged in mining at Hangtown, now Placerville, until the Summer of 1850, when he entered into a mercantile business at that place with Henry K. Curtis. During the Fall of that year Mr. Curtis had occasion to visit Suisun valley and was so much pleased with the country that he immediately located two claims—one for himself and one for his partner. In 1851, the store was disposed of and they took up their residence in the valley and engaged in haying and farming until 1853, when they sold their possessory rights to David and P. O. Clayton. In 1854, Mr. Gillespie started in business in Vacaville, where he resided for ten years, being Postmaster of that dis-

trict for a great portion of that time. On September 1, 1858, he was elected Supervisor for the third district and was a member of the board when the county seat was removed from Benicia to Fairfield. On September 2, 1863, he was chosen to fill the responsible position of Sheriff and, on taking possession of his office, removed with his family to Suisun, where he resided up to the day of his death. On the completion of the California Pacific railroad, he was appointed station agent at Fairfield, and he was also elected Justice of the Peace for Suisun township, October 20, 1869. In 1872, he was appointed deputy recorder by George C. McKinley and, in 1873, he was selected, by the people at the general election held on September 3, to succeed that gentleman in the office. Mr. Gillespie married in May, 1855, Sarah J., daughter of Captain J. H. White, of San Francisco, who died October 4, 1874, by whom there were ten daughters and two sons, viz.: Delia, Mary Ida, Luella, Clara, Jennie, Sarah, Emma, Augusta S., Effie, surviving; and John, Edgar and Cornelia, dying in infancy.

**GILLESPIE, GEORGE A.**, was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on December 7, 1830. His parents and the other children of the family were born at West Farms, Westchester, New York; when he was yet an infant, the family removed to Ohio and located on a farm near North Bend, and about eighteen miles from the city of Cincinnati. Here ten years of his life were spent and here his parents died; the father dying when he was of the age of six years, and his mother following the father to the grave four years later. In February, 1842, the family of children returned to St. Louis and for one year George attended the private schools in the city, and, in 1843, the family separating, he was sent to Kemper College, an Episcopal institution of learning, located near St. Louis. In 1844, he left the college and went to live with his eldest brother, who was located in Boonville, Missouri, and while here for two years he attended Kemper's Academy, closing his school days at this institution. After clerking in a hardware store at Boonville for a time, in 1847 he returned to St. Louis and took a situation with Joseph S. Pease, one of the pioneer wholesale hardware dealers of that city. He remained with Pease until the great fire of May, 1849, at which his employer was burned out and rendered almost bankrupt. In a few months he went into the employment of Hon. Henry T. Blow, the then owner of the Collier White Lead Works, as paying teller in the purchasing office of that establishment, and remaining with Blow until March, 1850, when he embarked "the plains across" to California, journeying from the Missouri river to Sacramento, in the then unprecedented time of eighty-three days, and arriving in Sacramento on the 10th day of July, 1850. After remaining in Sacramento a week or two to rest from the arduous trip, he, in company with two of his St.



Louis companions, left for the mines and located at Rough and Ready, in Nevada county, where he spent the Winter. In the Spring of 1851, he sold his claims at Rough and Ready and visited his brother, Edgar F., who was then keeping store in Hangtown, now Placerville, and from here he went to Horse-shoe Bar on the American river, near Auburn, to see another brother, who shortly after returned to Ohio. He at once engaged in mining and remained in this locality until April, 1852, when he joined his brother, Edgar, who had located in Suisun valley, in this county the year before. During the Summer of that year he and his brother engaged in cutting and baling hay and conducting a hay-yard at Sacramento city. In the Fall they gave up the hay-yard and commenced preparations for planting a crop of barley, on what is now known as the Clayton Place, at the head of the valley. The primitive farming of this period presented many novel features and more serious obstacles. There being no lumber for fencing or building purposes, ditches were dug and the crests of the sod covered with the branches of the valley oaks to warn away the numerous bands of cattle and horses, and prevent their intrusion upon the newly sown grain. Plenty of hay could be cut in the Summer but, for want of proper shelter, it could not be preserved for use in the Winter, and the old system of stacking, so much in vogue in the Eastern States, here proved an absolute failure; and barley being very scarce and rating at an enormously high figure, feeding the working animals after the common method was out of the question; therefore, the animals were nightly turned out upon the grass to obtain sustenance; and each morning were caught up and harnessed to the plow for the daily task of plowing an acre or an acre and a half. And, during the Winter, bread-stuffs, in the valley, became inconveniently scarce. To get flour was an impossibility; and shorts rated in Benicia at \$20 per hundred pounds; and, owing to the excessive rains of the season and the miry condition of the trails, it was next to impossible to obtain any provisions from Benicia, accordingly, the settlers in the upper part of the valley, during the most of that Winter, had to rely for breadstuff on a few sacks of shelled corn, which was, fortunately, in possession of one of their number, and this corn was prepared by first grinding it in a rough iron hand-mill, and, with this meagre preparation, it was mixed into bread batter, without so much as a partial acquaintance with the time-honored sieve. It made wholesome food, however, and the civilized plague of dyspepsia was, to these hardy pioneers, wholly unknown. Game and the bands of wild cattle ranging in such vast numbers in the Suscol hills, furnished the settlers with meat, with occasionally a piece of salt pork to flavor the savory dishes prepared by the more experienced cooks. Hunting, shooting matches, and an occasional scrub-horse race, furnished the only amusement of the times, until female immigrants became more



plenty, when the coarser sports of the men gave place to the more civilized pastime of the country dance.

The yield of the soil at this cropping was extremely good, and in one or two cases as high as seventy bushels of barley per acre was realized. The harvesting commenced about the 20th of June, and the grain was cut with the old style cradle, and bound into sheaves, and threshed by the tramping of horses, or the services of an endless chain machine—there being one or two of the latter brought to the valley. Nearly all of the products of the valley of that year were sold at Sacramento, being shipped there from the Suisun Embarcadero by sail vessel, and the barley bringing, in that market, an average of three and one-half cents per pound.

Mr. Gillespie continued farming until the summer of 1856, excepting perhaps a year intervening, when he went into the employment of John Doughty, one of the first storekeepers at Cordelia, to manage that gentleman's business, while he was absent representing the people of the county in the Legislature of the year 1855. On Christmas day of 1856 Mr. Gillespie commenced the foundation of the first store and second building in Silveyville, where he remained, merchandising, until the fall of 1859, when he sold to the firm of Deck & Co., and then engaged in sheepraising. In the spring of 1860, he was appointed Deputy County Assessor, under Capt. E. H. Von Pfister, the then County Assessor, and remained with him until the work of the year was finished, resigning in the month of December. In January, 1861, he was elected Engrossing Clerk of the State Senate, and again in 1862 was re-elected to the same position. Returning to the county again, in the summer of that year, he located at Maine Prairie, to buy wheat, as the agent of Gen. John B. Frisbie, who, that year, had commenced the business of shipping grain to Liverpool. The rejection of the Suscol grant by the courts, shortly after, put an end to the General's wheat speculations, and Mr. Gillespie left his employment, and engaged in the drug business at Maine Prairie, in partnership with Dr. S. K. Baker,—remaining there until the March of 1864, when he went into the Sheriff's office at Fairfield, under his brother, who was Sheriff, as deputy and jailor. At the end of the term, in March, 1866, he removed to Suisun City, and, during that summer, was the active projector and and first secretary and superintendent of the present Suisun and Fairfield Water Company. In September of that year, in partnership with Woodford Owens, Jr., he purchased the *Solano Press*, a newspaper, published at Suisun, and, under the firm-name of Geo. A. Gillespie & Co., continued the publication of that newspaper until the latter part of 1869, when the *Solano Press* and *Solano Herald* were merged into a new paper, called the *Solano Republican*, published by Powers & Gillespie. This firm continued the publication of the *Republican* until 1872, when Mr. Gillespie sold his interest to his partner, O. B. Powers, and soon after removed to

Antioch, in Contra Costa county, where he was engaged in business for about two years, returning to the county in 1874, to go into the Recorder's office, as a deputy, under his brother, whose failing health incapacitated him from attending to the duties of his position. Recorder Gillespie dying before his term of office expired, William Wolf was appointed Recorder, and Mr. Gillespie was reappointed deputy under him, and remained in the office to the close of the term, in March, 1876. Having been elected a Justice of the Peace for Suisun township the fall before, he then opened an office in Suisun, and, for the term following, was an acting Justice of the Peace and Notary Public. In March, 1878, he was appointed Deputy County Clerk under Alex. Dunn, which position he holds at the writing of this book.

Mr. Gillespie is a man of positive convictions and of activity of character, and has taken a prominent part in public affairs, his name appearing, all along through the annals of the county, for the past twenty-seven years. In 1862 Mr. Gillespie was married to Miss Mary E. Crousy, a native of Auburn, New York, who is well known in musical circles as a good vocalist and an excellent piano performer, besides enjoying the distinction of being a Past Worthy Grand Matron of the adopted Rite of Eastern Star, of the State of California. To this union two children were born, a son, named Guilford, and a daughter, named Rena, born respectively on October 16th, 1863, and July 19th, 1871.

**GOODWIN, B. H.**, a native of Oxford county, Maine, born Nov. 22, 1829, where he was educated and learned the trade of blacksmith, which he has followed as a business ever since. At the age of 20 he went to Southborow, Mass., and remained a short time, thence back to his birth-place on a short visit, thence to Rockford, Mass., where he worked at trade for about four months, after which, he proceeded to Boston and started on a whaling voyage; went around the Cape of Good Hope to the Oakheart Sea, and from there to the Sandwich Island, where he remained about four months, when he returned to Oakheart Sea, and from there to the Islands, where he remained and worked at trade four months longer, and then shipped again for the Oakheart Sea, where he remained several months, following trade and whaling, when he again returned to Sandwich Islands. After remaining here about six months came to San Francisco, arriving May, 1856. After remaining one month in Auburn, Placer county, he came to this county and settled in Benicia, where he remained until December, 1856. He then returned to Sandwich Islands, and remained through the winter, and in the spring returned to Benicia, where he followed his trade until September, when he came to this valley and worked at trade near the marble quarry, about four miles north-east of Suisun. About two months later he settled in Fairfield, where he

built a shop, in company with J. Foster, which they conducted but a few months, when Mr. Goodwin went to Suisun and worked for Sim. Ramsay for about one year, when he bought Mr. Ramsay out, and entered into partnership with L. H. Fowler. They remained together about one year, after which he worked for different parties for about one and a-half years, when he again settled in Fairfield, where he has been doing business on his own account ever since. Mr. Goodwin married Miss Catherine Cronan, October 30, 1859. Minnie E., Katie L., (deceased,) Katie E., Benjamin C. (deceased,) Laura E., George P., Nellie F., (deceased,) are the names of their children.

**GREGORY, JOHN M.**, second son and third child of Hon. John M. Gregory, and Amanda M. Wallace, was born March 6, 1840, at Williamsburg, Virginia; removed to Richmond in 1841, and lived in and near Richmond till the fall of 1860; entered Richmond Baptist College in March, 1853, and graduated in June, 1857, with the degree of B. A.; then went to the University of Virginia; remained there three sessions and graduated in 1860, as Master of Arts; then commenced the study of law with Thomas Wallace, his mother's brother, and continued the study of law with his father, until the month of May, 1861; entered the Confederate Army, joining the Richmond Light Infantry Blues, an infantry company commanded by Capt. O. J. Wise, a son of General Henry A. Wise, to whose brigade the company was attached; served for two months, and then, in August, 1861, joined the Rockbridge Artillery, attached to the Stonewall Brigade, as a private, and remained in that company until February, 1863; was then appointed 1st Lieutenant of artillery, and was assigned to duty with Col. Wm. Allen, chief advance officer of Stonewall Jackson's corps; was then assigned to duty as Chief of Advance of the artillery of the same corps; was afterwards promoted to Captain of Artillery, and left the army at Appomattox, C. H., after the surrender of Gen. Lee; then resumed the study of law, but carried on the lumber business at the same time, until the fall of 1868; came to California, by the Isthmus of Panama, arriving in October, 1868; taught school until September, 1869, and then entered upon the practice of law, at Vallejo, Solano county; was City Attorney and City Clerk, of Vallejo, and in December, 1873, was elected County Judge, of Solano county, and served four years; was re-elected in October, 1877, and is now County Judge. Was married May 1, 1872, to Evalyn T. Craven, third daughter of Rear-Admiral Thos. T. Craven U. S. N., and now has two children, John M. Gregory, Jr., born in Suisun, Solano county, June 26, 1875, and Thos. Craven Gregory, born at the same place, October 4, 1878.

**GREEN, GEORGE**, is a native of Middlesex county, Mass., where he was born May 15, 1828, and was educated in his native county. In 1840,



moved to Wooster county in that State, residing there until September 15, 1852, at which time he emigrated to California, remaining in Sacramento for three months. Soon after the fire, which occurred in that city November 25, 1852, he settled in San Francisco, remaining till 1853, when he returned to Sacramento. In February, 1855, he came to Suisun, Solano county, where he has since resided. Married Georgia S., daughter of Joseph Spiller, from western Massachusetts, September 21, 1871. Mr. Green, for many years, has been engaged in stock-raising, and is now with Harvey Rice in the butcher business.

**HAILE, HONORABLE R. C.** The subject of this sketch is a native of Smith county, Tennessee, receiving his early education at Nashville, after which he moved to Sumner county, and there engaged in mercantile pursuits from the years 1836 to 1839. On the 17th November, of the first-mentioned year, he married Miss Susan C., daughter of Joseph Seawell, when he proceeded to Lafayette county, Miss., and was respectively employed in school-teaching, book-keeping, and clerking. Here he remained till the spring of 1849, at which time he emigrated to California, crossing the plains with an ox-team, (leaving his family at Lafayette) and arrived at Sacramento on October 7th, of that year. At this place Mr. Haile remained but a short time, when he went to Nevada City, and there pursued mining, which he followed for about a year; he next moved to Napa valley and farmed, in partnership with L. C. Burroughs, and Major John H. Seawell; with this occupation was combined that of lumbering. The partnership was dissolved in 1857, when Mr. Haile, still continuing farming, added merchandizing to his business. In the fall of 1858 he sold out and purchased his present property in Suisun valley, consisting of 510 acres, situated about seven miles northwest of Fairfield, where he has since resided.

Mr. Haile has taken a very prominent lead in the affairs of the State in the section in which he has resided. In the year 1853, when in Napa county, he was elected to the Supervisorial chair, which he occupied for three years. In 1855 he was elected to the Legislature, from the same county, serving during the session of 1856. In Solano county he has twice represented the district in the Legislature, in the sessions of 1869-70 and 1877-78; while he has served as a School Trustee ever since his arrival in it.

Mr. Haile's life, however, has not been all a pleasant sunshine. We have mentioned above that when first coming to California he had left his wife in Lafayette; in 1851 he returned for her and his family, and commenced the fatigue of crossing the plains, with them, at the same time having in charge 100 head of cattle. When at Platte river, Mrs. Haile was seized with cholera, from the effects of which she succumbed on June 2, 1852.



Here, far away from friends, on the lonely waste of an unknown border, was this fair pioneer buried, near Fort Kearney, on that river, leaving naught but a mound, heaped by loving hands; the last tender offering to a devoted wife and mother, by her sorrowing husband and children. On September 21, 1853, Mr. Haile re-married, Mrs. Susan D. Sears, of Suisun. His children by his first marriage are: Joseph S., born August 16, 1837; Martha A., born March 27, 1839; Leeman, born November 25, 1840; Sarah J., born September 16, 1843; John W., born August 23, 1846; and Susan H., born December 1848. By his second wife there are: Harriett E., born July 13, 1854; James H., born May 22, 1857; Lucy W., born July 27, 1859; Richard C., born November 13, 1862. Leeman died June 13, 1873.

**HALE, DAVID**, is a native of Oakland county, Michigan, and born Nov. 19th, 1839, where he was educated and followed farming. In 1860, he emigrated to California, landing in San Francisco on April 24th, of that year. On April 25th, he came to Suisun, and was employed by J. B. Hoyt, the greater part of the time, for four years, after which he followed teaming six years over the Sierra Nevada mountains. In 1869, he bought what was known as the Ewing ranch, comprising one hundred acres, three and a-half miles west from Suisun. September 8, 1869, he married Laura P. Wing, a native of Maine. Louisa A., and William, are their children.

**HAMMOND, E. A.**, a native of Simpson county, Ky.; born October 8, 1837. At the age of one year he moved, with his uncle, David J. Clayton, to Jackson county, Mo. (he being an orphan), where he lived until 15 years old, when he emigrated, in company with his uncle, to California, crossing the plains with ox teams, arriving in Suisun valley October, 1852. He worked at farming in this county until 1856, when he went to Sonoma county, where he engaged in the sheep business, remaining there one year, and thence to Napa county, and engaged in the cattle trade, where he remained about two years. He then returned to this county and settled in the upper end of Suisun valley, where he farmed for one year, and then turned speculator, dealing in horses and cattle, and working by the month until 1867. Married Miss Catherine Ives, April 7, 1867. He then rented a farm, which he occupied for about two years, in Napa county, and then purchased a farm in Pope valley, Napa county, where he remained for four years. He then returned to this county, and farmed the widow Clayton farm, in Suisun valley, which he conducted one year. After farming in different parts of this county and Napa for a few years, he made a trip to Texas, where he remained about eight months, when he returned to California, and, after working for a few months as a farm

hand, leased the ranch where he now resides, in Suisun valley. Mary F., Charles C. (deceased), James S., and William E. are the names of their children.

**HOOPER, THOMAS P.**, the proprietor of the Fairfield Hotel, was born in Essex county, Mass., November 28, 1840. Here he received his primary education. In May, 1857, he emigrated to this State, settling in Benicia, completing his education at the St. Augustine College in that city. He was appointed Deputy Recorder, which position he filled fourteen months, and then moved to Collinsville and followed merchandizing, and was appointed Postmaster. In the fall of 1875 he was elected County Auditor; the following spring permanently locating in Fairfield. At the expiration of his office he bought the Fairfield Hotel and has since been its proprietor. Married Anna E. Nichols, daughter of Capt. Moses Nichols, of Benicia. Their children are Minnie S., Lillie E., and Frank.

**HOYT, W. K.**, is a native of Fairfield, Franklin county, Vt., and was born on August 7, 1829. Here he received his primary education at the common schools. Moved to New York City in 1846, and resided with his uncle, W. K. Hoyt, a lawyer in that city, and received his academical education at the "Mechanics High School." His father took up his residence in that city some time after Mr. Hoyt arrived there, engaging in the drug trade. The subject of this sketch went to Saratoga county, N. Y., from which he emigrated to California via the Isthmus, and arrived in San Francisco February 3, 1852, settling on Spring Flat, El Dorado county, where he was engaged principally in mining, but a portion of the time was employed as a farmer. In October, 1859, he came to Suisun, Solano county, and for over three years was engaged in the butcher business, but in the fall of 1863 sold out and went to Austin, Nevada Territory, and was one of the electors who cast a vote for the first constitution, of that State. On his return to Suisun, in 1865, he was elected Superintendent of the Suisun and Fairfield Water Works, and in the meantime was engaged in the grocer trade in company with E. D. Perkins, but sold his interest in the store to that gentleman a few years ago and has since pursued various occupations. Was the Republican nominee for County Treasurer in 1877, and is the present candidate for that office by the same party. Married in Sacramento, Cal., Miss Hannah E., daughter of G. A. Hoyt, a native of Lower Canada, March 5, 1859. She was born April 30, 1841.

**HUBBARD, HENRY**, came to California with a company organized at Hartford, Connecticut, on barque "Selma," Captain Sellew, arriving in San Francisco October 5, 1849; resided in Sacramento the following winter,

a time of "high water," and great suffering among many of the people at that place. In the spring—1850—he went to the mines at Caldwell's Diggings, now Nevada City, and followed mining and trading, in what are now Nevada, Yuba, and Placer counties, with the exception of the time occupied by a visit to his friends in his native State and the State of Georgia—from May, 1852, to October, 1853—until July 5, 1856, at which time he settled at Suisun, where he has since resided. In 1861, he was elected Justice of the Peace and Associate Justice of the Court of Sessions, and up to this time has held the position of Justice of the Peace—nearly ten years. In 1862, soon after the commencement of the war of the Southern rebellion, with the aid and encouragement of others, he established the newspaper called the SOLANO PRESS, through which to uphold and encourage all friends of the cause of his country, and continued its management until the fall of 1866, when he retired. It can be truthfully said that he has been specially interested in all matters of public interest in his adopted home.

He was born in Bloomfield, Connecticut, May 24, 1820, and received his early education at the public schools of his native county, and at the Connecticut Literary Institution, at Suffield. Married Clarissa Elizabeth House, in 1846, who died in 1868. He again married, January 26, 1878, Elizabeth (Alderman) Jackson. Has two children by his first marriage—Henry F., and Julia.

**JONES, JOHN M.**, the Under-sheriff of Solano county, was born in Wayne county, Kentucky, March 30, 1832. In 1836 he, with his parents, moved to Howard county, Missouri, but after one year, settled in Scotland county in that State, where Mr. Jones received his early education, and finished the same at the State University, in Boone county. In 1853 he crossed the plains with an ox-team, also bringing a drove of cattle, which he disposed of and settled in Suisun, in September, of that year. During the years 1855-6 he was engaged in mercantile trading, having built a building for that purpose in the rear of Reeve's corner brick block. He afterwards engaged in the lumber trade, under the firm name of Jackson & Jones, which he continued until his appointment as Under-sheriff, in 1857, by Sheriff B. T. Osborne, which position he held during the official term. In the years 1860-1 we find him engaged in the livery business, which he had bought of Mr. Barton, when he moved to Austin, Lander county, Nevada, but returned to this county in 1866, engaging in farming until March, 1876, when he was again appointed Under-sheriff, which position he now fills. Married, in this county, Isabella, daughter of Hugh Pencil, November 19, 1857. The names of their living children are: Jennie, Helen, Etta, and Katie. James L. died in infancy.



**KENNEDY, W. T.**, born in Fredericks county, Maryland, October 5, 1814. Here he was educated. December 16, 1835, he moved to Lafayette, Ind., where he served an apprenticeship at the saddle and harness business, and followed it in St. Louis, Missouri, where he moved in 1844. After going to Keokuk to reside three months, he returned to St. Louis, Missouri, and on December 16, 1848, started for California via New Orleans and the Isthmus, arriving in San Francisco May 22, 1849. For several years after coming to this State he was engaged in mining, and after drifting around for awhile, following different occupations, he came, on August 15, 1856, to Suisun city, where he has since resided. On December 12, 1858, in this town, he married Annie Maloney. They have five children, whose names are as follows: Willie T., Anna Laura, George H., Mary C., and John Francis.

**KERNS, J. W.**, was born in New York City, June 19, 1842. When four years old he went, with his parents, to Rochester, New York, where he received his primary education. After remaining here about ten years he moved to Detroit, Michigan, where he learned the tinner's trade, and was employed in the railroad shops, doing their tin and copper work, up to the time he left for New York City, in May, 1861, taking passage on the steamer "North Star," for California, landing in San Francisco in July of that year. From here he went to Sacramento, working at his trade for three months, when he moved to Downieville, Sierra county, California, following the same occupation until July, 1863; thence to Virginia City, remaining until November of that year. Returned to San Francisco, and remained until December, 1863, when he came to Suisun, working for F. J. McGarvey and others, when he went into business for himself, June, 1873, being that of a hardware and tin store. Married, October 25, 1876, Miss Josie Odell, of Sacramento. She was born August 5, 1855.

**KINLOCH, JOHN G.**, a native of this county, born in Benicia, Solano county, California, April 13, 1855. Came to Suisun in company with his parents in December, 1859. Here he lost both father and mother. His father, James W. Kinloch, was a native of South Carolina. He died February 9, 1861. His mother, a native of Florida, died February 11, 1878. The subject of this sketch was educated in Suisun, at the high school, after which he entered the store of E. D. Perkins, as clerk, in 1873, and has since been constantly in his employ. He is a young man of ability, and not only has the confidence of his employer, but has the esteem and good will of all who know him.

**LAMONT, GEORGE A.**, was born in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, June 19, 1844. In 1847 moved with his parents to Little Rock, Arkansas, and in 1850



proceeded with them to Boone county, Kentucky, where he commenced his early education. In September, 1854, they came to Solano county and settled in Vallejo, where he received the ground of that education which has since stood him in such good stead. In 1861 he went to the Collegiate Institute at Benicia, where he graduated in 1863, taking a high position in the law department. Was admitted to practice in 1865, and was elected District Attorney in 1869, taking his seat in 1870. Came to Fairfield in 1876, where he has since continued in the practice of his profession. Married Hattie E., daughter of John E. Yount, and has one daughter, Ellen.

**LE GRO, RICHARD P.**, was born in Cumberland county, Maine, July 4, 1844. Here his parents died, and he went to Boston, Massachusetts, residing there until the breaking out of the Rebellion in 1861, when he enlisted in the Twenty-fifth Maine Volunteer Infantry, a regiment raised for the nine months' service, and honorably discharged at the expiration of the term. In 1863 we find him in Norfolk, Virginia, whither he had gone to work in the gas-works, with a brother-in-law, for nine months; after which he returned to Boston, again enlisting, in the regular army, serving three years, and discharged at the barracks in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1868. After returning to Boston on a visit, he came to Suisun, arriving October, 1868, securing a place in the Suisun City Mills, which he still occupies. Married, in this city, Miss Kate, daughter of C. D. Smith, July 4, 1872. Bertie L. and Eva A. are their children.

**LEITHEAD, WILLIAM**, native of Roxburgh, Scotland, born March 28, 1838. His parents emigrated to Canada when he was but six months old. Here he received his education, and learned the trade of carpenter. At the age of twenty-two years he emigrated to California, arriving in San Francisco June 3, 1859, and immediately came to this county, where he labored on a farm for nearly two years, when he went to Nevada and followed teaming for sixteen months, and then returned to this county, and worked for S. K. Nurse two years. In June, 1865, he returned to Canada and spent three years, and one year in Illinois, returning to this county in 1869. After following his trade one year he engaged in farming with his brother James, for two years. In the Spring of 1874 took a trip to Carson, and returned in the Fall of 1875, since which time he has followed his trade. In February, 1879, he purchased a farm of four hundred and eighty acres, four miles due north from Suisun, and will make farming his business in future.

**LEMON, JOHN B.**, son of the Honorable J. M. Lemon, was born in Clark county, Indiana, on December 19, 1825, and ten years later he moved to La Porte, Indiana, at which place he was educated. In 1849 he

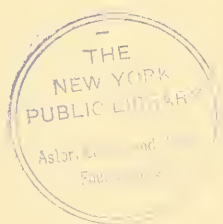
came to California, and was one of that great number of pioneers who have done so much to place this State in the proud position it holds in America. On first arriving Mr. Lemon settled in El Dorado county, where he resided two years, occasionally engaging in mining; while, during the Winter of 1849-50, he was located at Kelsey's Dry Diggings, where he opened and managed a store for general merchandise. From thence he went to Coloma, where he remained a short time and pursued the same occupation. In the Spring of 1850 he transferred his interests to Greenwood Valley, and was the first to establish a mercantile store in that place; and in the following Spring returned to Indiana, and at La Porte married, on April 1, 1852, Miss Hattie A., daughter of Dr. A. Miller, of that place, after which he returned to California, driving across the plains a herd of cattle. In September, 1852, he settled in Green Valley, Solano county, where he resided until May 1, 1856, at which date he purchased the interest of Jones & Samuels in their dry-goods store in Suisun City, which he in turn sold out in 1861, and embarked in the occupation of sheep raising, being at one time the largest buyer of wool in the county, Mr. Lemon has been inseparably connected with the political history of the county since his residence in it, and has been elected to the prominent position of County Treasurer on the several general elections held on September 6, 1865, September 4, 1869, September 1, 1875, and September 5, 1877. His children are, H. Jennie, Mamie, Dennie.

**MANKA, CHRISTLEY**, was born in Bautorte county, Va., April 23, 1814, and resided there till 1836, when he went to Montgomery county, Indiana; thence to Peoria, Ills., where he stayed for a short time, and then proceeded to Lewis county, Mo., where he remained till 1849, when he made the trip across the Plains to California, arriving at Sacramento, (Sutter's Fort,) on September 17th of that year. Went to the mines on Yuba creek shortly after, where he stayed for a few months, and then went to the Upper Yuba, and there principally engaged in storekeeping and mining till June, 1852, when he came to this district, and has been a continuous resident in the township ever since, except during the years 1864-5, when he was a resident of Bridgeport, after which he came to his present abode and farm of one hundred acres.

**MARSHALL, CHARLES KNOX**, County Recorder, and a native of Howard county, Mo., was early sent to district schools, where he laid the foundations for a higher education, which he received in Benicia, Solano county, at Charles M. Blake's Collegiate Institute, now known as St. Augustine's Academy. At the age of twelve his parents moved from Howard county, Mo., to Saline, where the subject of this memoir abode until 1852, when he came to this State, settling in Yolo county. January, 1853, he settled



James Hunter





near Collinsville, Solano county, but subsequently made a permanent residence in Benicia. He was born January 10, 1837. Leona, daughter of Alexander Irvine, was the name of his wife, now deceased. Pauline and Lulu are their children.

**MAXWELL, J. C.**, is a native of Niagara Falls, Niagara county, N. Y., and born June 10, 1854. He, with parents, moved to Chicago, Ills., in 1857; thence to Dubuque, Iowa, in 1864, where he attended the common schools of that city; then sent to the Shattock Grammar School, at Faribault, Minn., remaining three years, and there acquired those fundamental lessons that eventually ripened into a liberal knowledge of the practical affairs of life. His parents, in the meantime, having moved to Omaha, Neb., where the subject of this sketch repaired at the close of his school days, and was appointed, by the Union Pacific Railroad Co., as telegraph operator, commencing this work in the fall of 1869. In the fall of 1874 he emigrated to this State, settling in Davisville, Yolo county, and was in the employ of the C. P. R. Co. for one year and three months, when he was transferred to Suisun, as station agent for that company, which office he is in possession of at the present writing.

**MILLER, ALLEN C.**, is a native of Lancaster county, Pa., where he was born, October 30, 1832. In 1833 his parents moved to Erie, Pa., and his father, Dr. A. Miller, was engaged in business with John A. Tracy, under the firm-name of Miller & Tracy. The family, in 1842, emigrated to La Porte, Ind., where the subject of this sketch received his education, under the direction of Prof. Cummings. Here Mr. Miller's father died, and he with his mother and brother-in-law, J. B. Lemon, came to this State, settling in Green Valley township, Solano county, in September, 1852. The following year we find him mining at Jackson, Amador county, Cal., in the Placer diggings; but in July, 1856, he returned to this county, and engaged in mercantile pursuits till April, 1864, when he took up his abode in Suisun City. Has been Deputy County Treasurer since the election of John B. Lemon to that office. Mr. Miller has maintained a continued residence in this county since his coming here, except one year's visit to La Porte, Ind., which he made in 1867.

**MILLER, JOHN**, born in Wurtemberg, Germany, August 19, 1834. Emigrated to the United States in 1851, settling in Philadelphia, Pa., from which place he emigrated on February 22, 1856, settling in San Francisco, Cal. Came to Suisun in 1865, and opened his bakery, which business he has followed to the present time. He was educated in Germany, and those principles of honesty and integrity are deep-seated in his character, which makes him respected wherever he lives. Margaret, a native of

Ireland, and a daughter of John Lyons, he married April 26, 1866. Mary, Freddie, and Celia are his children.

**MILES, JAMES L.**, born in Davidson county, Tennessee, near Nashville, March 3, 1822. His mother died when he was about eight years old; his father, H. D. Miles, married a second wife. He remained on the farm where he was raised until he was about sixteen years old; he then left the old homestead and walked one hundred miles to the mouth of Cumberland river, or the town of Smithland, in Kentucky, where he engaged as a common hand on the steamboat "Rio," H. H. Harrison, commander: he continued to be engaged in steamboating on various boats and in different capacities until the 5th of April, 1850, when he left Nashville, Tenn., for California. The last five years of his steamboating he was engaged as pilot on different boats. He left Nashville in company with Stephen J. Buckhout and wife, and Thomas L. Bowers, for California. Bowers and himself arrived at Hangtown on the 20th of August, 1850; he worked in the mines until the latter part of September, then he walked to Sacramento city, where he hired to one Capt. Harding, to mow grass, down below the city, where he worked until he was taken sick; he then returned to the city, and remained there a few days, until he felt able to travel; he then walked to Suisun valley, where he arrived the 21st of October, 1850, with just one dollar and twenty-five cents in his pocket, and all the clothes he had in the world he had on his back, and one blanket. He walked to Benicia, and gave seventy-five cents of his coin for dinner; he then returned to Suisun, located here and went to work at whatever work he could get, receiving four dollars per day for work. He married Mary J. Quantien, daughter of Allen Quantien, the 18th day of December, 1851. She, in company with her father and brother William, and a negro man, Isaac, crossed the plains in 1850, and settled in Suisun valley in October; she and her father were from Mill creek, four miles from Nashville, Davidson county, Tenn. He commenced to farm in 1851, raising barley and potatoes; he shipped the first produce (potatoes) from Suisun City, in July, 1852; he shipped them on the schooner "Ann Sophia," Josiah Wing captain and owner. The potatoes were sold in San Francisco for 9 $\frac{3}{4}$  cents per pound. November 5, 1857, he returned to his native State on a visit; returned to California in February, 1858. In December, 1858, moved to the Montezuma hills, and lived on a ranch near Nurse's Landing, taking care of cattle; moved from there, in 1861, six miles northwest of Rio Vista, where he lived eight years; his wife died here, the 16th of February, 1866, and left him with an only child, and she blind; sold his ranch here in October, 1869 (480 acres); then returned to Suisun Valley, and in July, 1870, bought a farm of ninety acres, of Lewis Pierce, where he now lives. Married a second wife, Malinda An-

geline McKinley, June 7, 1877, she having three children: Samuel, Elizabeth J., and Alice Lee. He crossed the plains with mule teams; was one hundred days from the Missouri river to Hangtown, now Placerville.

**MURRAY, ALEXANDER**, is a native of Earltown, Colchester, Nova Scotia. Born May, 1847. He learned the trade of shoemaker in his native country, and worked at it until May, 1868, when he emigrated to California, and settled in Suisun, this county, working at his trade, where it is hoped he will *last* long enough to repair all the *soles*. This done and his mission will be complete.

**McCREARY, D.**, was born in York county, Pa., July 13, 1830, and with parents moved to Crawford county, Ohio, where he was educated. In 1848 went to Ashland, Ashland county, Ohio, and in 1854 emigrated to California, crossing the plains with J. L. Sanborn, arriving in the Suisun valley in August of that year. He paid Mr. Sanborn \$100 to be taken across the plains, all the money he possessed. Having in early life learned the gunsmith's trade, he was selected as the blacksmith for the party, he being the nearest approach to that kind of a workman among their number. A horse which he brought with him he sold before arriving in the valley for \$200, but sent the money home. It will be seen he commenced life in this country without means, but by prudence and economy he gathered together a sufficient amount to buy a portion of his present estate, southwest from Suisun, and has since added to it, until now he owns 760 acres of fine valley land. He moved to Suisun City in 1878, to educate his children. Married Mary, daughter of John McKnight, a native of St. Joseph county, Ind., April 24, 1866. They have Sadie and Howard.

**McDONALD, D. C.**, of the firm of Hall, Hill & McDonald, was born in Nova Scotia, April 8, 1848. Emigrated from his native country to California, settling in this county, near Collinsville, in 1869; the following year he came to Suisun, and was engaged in farming until September, 1877, when he joined partnership in the livery business with the above gentlemen.

**PALMER, A. M., LYMAN LUTHER**, was born August 30, 1850, near Medora, Macoupin County, Illinois. His father's name was Luther Bateman Palmer, a native of Knox county, Ohio, and his mother's maiden name was Louisa A. Brainard, a native of Addison county, Vermont; entered college, October 21, 1866, at Blackburn University, Carlinville, Illinois; graduated with honors from the Classical Department, June 12, 1873, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts. June 11, 1877, he had the



honor of having the degree of Master of Arts conferred upon him by his Alma Mater. June 25th, 1873, he was united in marriage with Miss Maria Frances Nantz. She was born near Carlinville, Macoupin county, Illinois. Her father's name was Edmund Walton Nantz, a native of Kentucky, and her mother's maiden name was Louisa Julia Bainbridge. June 26, 1873, L. L. Palmer and wife started for California, and located at Rio Vista, when he engaged in mercantile business for a while. He was Principal of the Public School for one year, spent a part of a year in Oakland, being connected with the press of that city, returned to Rio Vista and taught another year, and then began the publication of the *Rio Vista Gleaner*. In February, 1879, he became connected with the *Solano Republican*, and at present resides in Suisun. He has three daughters, the oldest, Sarah Estella, was born November 23, 1874; the second, Vesta Louisa, was born October 21, 1876, and the third, Clara Belle, was born December 19, 1878.

**PALMER, S. G.**, the subject of this memoir, the youngest son of Phillip and Ann A. Palmer, was born in Mason county, Kentucky, August 14th, 1840, removing, with the family, to Johnson county, Missouri, in 1844. Here he remained till 1853, when, with his parents, he removed to Solano county, Cal., where he has maintained a continuous residence, locating in business in Suisun city, in 1867.

May 5th, 1865, he united his fortunes with Elizabeth T. Smith, daughter of C. D. Smith. The result of the union being a handsome business competence, and the family supplement of two bright children, Ethel A., and Clyde H. October 15th, 1870, Mr. Palmer was commissioned Postmaster, at Suisun city, his commission being signed by Postmaster-General John A. J. Creswell, which position he still fills. In May, 1879, he was elected to and entered upon the duties of the somewhat responsible, though not lucrative office, of Town Trustee. In addition to his public services, in a Federal and Municipal capacity, he also served Cristal School District one term, as Assessor and Collector, and has ever manifested a deep interest in the cause of true education, and the general dissemination of wholesome knowledge; having himself enjoyed the advantages of a liberal education, and the conferment of the College degree of A. B., in May, 1864, after patiently pursuing the necessary course of study to entitle him thereto.

**PANGBURN, GARRETT HENRY**, a native of Albany county, N. Y., was born May 18, 1838. At the age of ten his parents moved to Saratoga county, N. Y., and, after a few years, to Belvidere, Boone county, Ills., and two years thereafter went to Sparta, Monroe county, Wis. Mr. Pangburn started for California April 8, 1861, crossing the Plains with a



horse team, and arrived in Butte county, where he settled, in July of that year. November, 1862, he came to this township, where he has since permanently resided. Married Adeline Russell, daughter of Landy Alford, Nov. 16, 1863. Their children are Lillie, Ida May, Arthur, James Francis Marion, Julia Belle, and Maud.

**PEARCE, JOHN W.**, an old settler, of Solano county, was born in Bristol county, Rhode Island, July 17, 1829. When a little over seventeen years old, he went to Fall River, Mass., and was apprenticed to S. L. James & Co., to learn the carpenters and joiners trade, remaining with them until twenty-one years old. In 1850, went to New Bedford, Mass., where he remained until 1854, when in March of that year he arrived in this State, settling in San Francisco. Two years, thereafter, he came to Suisun, where he has maintained a continuous residence. Married Angie B. Davis, an adopted daughter of Dr. Archer, on Dec. 7, 1863. She died in Suisun, October 2, 1872. Maud M., born October 1, 1864, is their only child.

**PERKINS, E. D.**, is one of Solano's old settlers, who was born in Canada, (his parents being then citizens of the United States,) March 15th, 1834. His parents came to Rock county, Wis., where the subject of this sketch received his education, and married Ellen Rittenhouse, daughter of William Rittenhouse, of Green county, Wis. They emigrated to this State, settling in Suisun city, in 1861. In the fall of 1871, Mr. Perkins was elected County Treasurer and Tax Collector, and in 1873, elected Sheriff, which office he held two years, and doing the county excellent service, in bringing to justice several noted criminals, prominent among which was the capture and conviction of "Black Jack," a noted safe breaker. At the time he was serving the county as Sheriff, he was also engaged in the mercantile trade, with W. K. Hoyt, but afterwards bought Hoyt's interest and is, at present writing, the sole proprietor. Clara, Herman, Dorman, Hayden Ellen, and Jessie, are his children.

**QUICK, W.**, is a native of Ashland county, Ohio, and was born September 29th, 1835. Here he received his education, and worked at farming, until about nineteen years old, and emigrated to California, crossing the plains in 1854, and located in Napa county. In 1855, he went to Vallejo, where he was engaged in draying during the winter, and then came to Suisun Valley, where he was engaged in farming, from 1856 to 1863, at which time he went to the mountains, mining for one year, and returned to Suisun Valley. In 1869, we again find him in the mines, where he stayed four years. He again returns to this county, and settled in the Montezuma hills, working for W. B. Brown one year, after which he

farmed on his own account. In the fall of 1875, he bought the ranch where he now resides, and is located about three miles north-west of Suisun.

**RICE, HARVEY**, was born in Marlboro, Middlesex county, Mass., April 3, 1827. He was educated in Marlboro, and was engaged in farming during the summer, and taught school in winter, for a livelihood. Emigrated to this State in 1849, coming via Cape Horn, locating in Benicia, June 10, 1850. The following year he moved to San Francisco, purchasing stock in Oregon for the trade in California. In the fall of 1851 he made Sacramento his home, pursuing the butcher business as well as the stock trade, but changed his residence to this county in June, 1855, settling on a rancho in the Suisun valley. In 1863 he came to Suisun City and, the following year, opened his butcher-shop, and at the present writing is the proprietor.

**RICHARDSON, J. B.**, is a native of Le Roy, Genesee county, N. Y., where his parents had settled in 1810, there being only three log houses in the city of Rochester when they passed through that place. Mr. Richardson has traced his genealogy to one Amos Richardson, who emigrated from England, in 1640. He was born on June 10, 1827, and received his education at his birth-place. In 1848 he moved to Lafayette county, Wisconsin, and was by occupation a farmer. Returning to his former home in 1851, where he married Miss Kate Richardson, from Le Roy, Genesee county, New York, on May 15, 1850. They returned to Wisconsin, where they abode until 1860, then emigrated overland to Suisun, Solano county, Cal., arriving September 4th, of that year. On his arrival here he was entirely destitute of money, and in order to gain a livelihood for himself and wife, worked at "whatever his hands found to do," until appointed Assistant Assessor, November 16, 1865. When the law was changed, in July, 1875, he was appointed Deputy Collector of U. S. Internal Revenue, which office he now holds. He has steadily pushed ahead in his special avocations, and those with whom he has had business associations aver that his efforts have been crowned with success. Belle Eliza, and William Manning, are their children.

**ROBBINS, R. D.**, was born in Bodoingham, Sagadahoc county, Maine, February 19, 1839. He was educated at the Maine Wesleyan Seminary, in his native town. Leaving home in 1860, he took passage on a ship in New York on March 20th, of that year, for California, crossing the Isthmus on April 20th, and arrived in San Francisco on the 25th. Coming directly to the Suisun valley, he commenced life among strangers, first as a hired hand under Mr. Pearson, then hauled stone for the Fairfield church, for

Nathan Richardson, and afterwards burning lime for James Burnett, and on August 1, 1860, commenced work in a lumber yard at Suisun, for Nickison & Crowell. May, 1862, he bought one-half interest in a lumber-yard, of C. Kurlbaun, the firm then being Hook & Robbins. In July following he purchased the lumber interest of Nickison & Crowell, and in January, 1864, Mr. Robbins bought out his partner, J. S. Hook, and has since been the sole proprietor. In addition to his large lumber interests, he was one of the prime movers in establishing the Bank of Suisun, of which he is President. It will be seen that, step by step, the subject of this sketch rose from poverty to a position among the wealthy men of our county, envied by many. It is also a striking illustration of what pluck, energy and honesty may accomplish. Mr. Robbins married Sadiatha McCullah, a native of Jefferson county, Ohio, and daughter of John McCullah, on January 19, 1871. Their children are, R. D., Mary Emma, John Lloyd McCullah, and Minnie Hoyt.

**ROBINSON, D. D. S., W. H.**, office and residence, Suisun. Is a Canadian by birth. Being left an orphan when quite young, he had the varied tug for existence common to all boys who have no home, and who have from childhood to be the architects of their own fortunes. At ten years old we find him in the town of Brantford, C. W., sub-clerk in a grocery, wages two dollars per month; but before he was eighteen, he had, by his own efforts, accumulated over \$1,200. With this sum he determined to obtain an education, and with this object left his native land to attend Oberlin College, Ohio, he being in sympathy with the principles of freedom and manhood held and taught in that noted institution. Here he spent six years, and then chose dentistry as his life pursuit, studying with Dr. J. P. Sidall, of that place, and receiving his diploma from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery, in Cincinnati. He first practiced in Ashtabula, Ohio; then in Davenport, Iowa, and Leavenworth, Kansas, from 1865 to 1875. Four years ago he made California his home. During his boyhood he visited the neighboring town of Paris—a few miles from Brantford, C. W., his own home—and while at church there, the first look at a little girl sealed his door, matrimonially. That little girl was Clara Hawkins. On the 29th of June, 1864, at her own home in that town, they were married. She is now his wife. May, Leo, Clara, and Marsa, are their children. *“Ad Astra per aspera.”*

**RUSH, B. F.**, was born at Fourteen Mile House, Sacramento county, Cal., Oct. 12, 1852. When two years old he came to this county with his parents, settling on the ranch where he, at this writing, resides, in the Potrero Hills. Received his primary and academical education in Oakland and San Francisco. Attended the Military Academy in Oakland,

and afterwards Heald's Business College. In 1870 to '75 he followed book-keeping, after which he returned to his home, and engaged in farming and stock raising. Hiram Rush, his father, died Dec. 4, 1869, and since October, 1875, he has been sole manager of the entire ranch, comprising 5,100 acres. He married June 20, 1876, Miss Anna M. McKean, a native of Astoria, Oregon. She was born April 13th, 1853. Richard Ira, born July 19, 1877, and Frederick Winn, born March 14, 1879, are the names and births of their children.

**SPENCE, M. D., ALEXANDER PERSINGER**, was born Dec. 30, 1834, at Columbia, Boone county, Mo. Entered the Preparatory Department of the State University of Missouri, in 1851, and graduated July 4, 1856, after which he took two courses of medical lectures at the St. Thomas Medical College of Missouri, receiving his degree from that institution March 2, 1858. Has been actively engaged in the practice of medicine up to the present time. Came to California March 1, 1877, and located at Suisun City, April 1, 1878.

**STAPLES, EARNEST H.**, is a native of York county, Maine, where he was born, on October 14, 1856. When about one year old his parents moved to Portland, Maine, where they lived about three years, and emigrated to California, via Panama, arriving in San Francisco, Nov. 13, 1859. In 1861 they came to Suisun, Solano county. The subject of this sketch was sent to St. Augustine's College, at Benicia, in 1869, completing parents education during the five years he attended school there. About one year thereafter he served as a cadet, about six months, on a Pacific mail ship, running between San Francisco and Panama, after which he returned to Suisun, and engaged as book-keeper for Lewis Pierce, for a term of six months, and afterwards followed the same occupation for E. D. Hilborn & Co. In October, 1877, he went on a rancho, at Cannon Station, where he has since lived and farmed 1,040 acres of land. On August 11, 1878, he married Miss Sarah M., daughter of D. J. Reese, of Vallejo.

**STAPLES, F. O.**, a native of Cumberland county, Maine. Born October 29, 1825, where he received his primary education and resided with parents until he arrived at the age of sixteen, when he entered a drug store as clerk in Saco, York county, Maine, where he remained about three years, when he engaged in the book and stationery business, which he followed for five years. He then went back, and lived with his parents for two years, when he went to Birchforce, York county, and, in company with his brother Samuel, bought a farm, where he lived and farmed for three years, after which he clerked again in a drug store, this time in Portland, Me.,



where he spent four years. He then emigrated to California, via Panama, arriving in San Francisco November 13, 1859. Leaving his family in San Francisco he proceeded to Suisun, this county. His place of residence being divided between Suisun and San Francisco, until 1861 when he moved his family to Suisun, where he has resided continuously ever since. In 1869 he, in company with R. B. Cannon, bought a ranch at Cannon's Station, consisting of 1,040 acres, but in 1877 he bought out Cannon's interest, and he and his son Earnest H. now own and conduct the place together. Mr. Staples married Miss Sarah W. Cardwell, daughter of Francis Cardwell, of Greenwood, Oxford county, Maine, on November 25, 1851. Ida E., born August 29, 1852, and died October 8, 1855; Earnest H., born October 14, 1856; Julia, born June 2, 1866, and died June 19, 1866; M. C., born December 11, 1868, are the names of their children.

**STOCKMAN, DAVID E.**, (deceased), was born in the city of New York, February 7, 1833. Moved to Loudonville, Ohio, from which he emigrated to California, settling in Suisun in November, 1856. While in this State he continuously resided in Suisun, with the exception of a few months before his death. He was one of the founders of the Engine Company, and the Light Dragoons; for a long time Chairman of the Union County Committee; a member of the Masonic Fraternity, and was identified with nearly every public interest in this community.

**STOCKMAN, D. MERRILL**, a native of New York city, arrived in Suisun March 1858. His brother having preceded him to this county is the reason why he chose this valley for his future home. He had formerly resided in Orange, Essex county, New Jersey, where his parents had moved when he was quite young. In 1836, we find them in Delaware county, Ohio, and again, in 1844, took up their abode in Ashland county. Here Mr. Stockman was educated, and from whence he started for this State in December, 1857. He was born August 22, 1830, and married on April 9, 1862, Miss Emma A., daughter of T. C. Everets, M. D. Their children are May Ella, Lillie, Emma and Carrie; D. Merrill, their only son, was drowned in this town.

**SWAN, HONORABLE THOMAS M.**, is a native of Harden county, Kentucky, where he was born March 14, 1819, and is the fourth son of Thomas Swan. After receiving his common school education, he was sent to Elizabethtown to the Harden-county Academy, where all the languages were taught, from which he graduated with honors. Commenced the study of law, first, with Jesse Craddock and afterwards with Gov. John L. Helm, of Kentucky; was admitted to the bar in 1842, after which he practiced law in his native county. He was elected to the lower house

of the legislature for the sessions of 1848-9, filling that office with distinction. Emigrated to this State, via the Isthmus of Panama, settling in Benicia on January 27, 1851. During this year he was elected District Attorney for Solano county, and, in 1853, was elected County Judge. In 1859, was elected to the lower house of the California Legislature and again in 1855. Came to Fairfield on May 9, 1858, for over twenty years he has worked for the improvement of the Tolenas Springs.

**TURNER, W. H.**, is a native of Maeddingburg, Virginia, and was born December 27, 1816, where he received his education and lived on a farm with his parents till twenty years old. At the age of twenty-three, he emigrated to Cape Girardeau county, Missouri, where he married Susan J. Elliott, July 23, 1839. Here he lived and was engaged in farming for seven years, when he moved to St. Clair county, Illinois, where he pursued farming for two years; came to California, leaving his family, crossing the plains with an ox team, arriving in Nevada city, September 15, 1850, at which place he followed mining about five months, after which he went to Red Bar, Trinity river, going into partnership with J. B. Rentchler, where he remained about eight months, then went to San Francisco, going East via the Nicaragua route, landing in New Orleans, thence up the Mississippi river, Mr. Rentchler going to St. Louis and Mr. Turner stopping at Cape Girardeau, where he met his family. After remaining there about two months, he again crossed the plains to this State with an ox team, accompanied by his wife and six children and four men. He arrived in Suisun valley, August 28, 1852. Five days after his arrival he left his family in a small cabin about four miles north of Suisun, under the protection of a gentleman, and he, with three men, went to Trinity river, to look after his mine he had previously located, but only remained about four days, and then returned home, settling on a farm about four miles north of Suisun, building a house, the timber for which he brought from the Napa red-woods. In December, 1860, he came to his present farm of 238 acres, situated about four miles north-west from Suisun. His wife died October 11, 1867. The names of the children by this marriage are, John H., born September 12, 1840, and died July 9, 1866; Cebiner C., born May 13, 1842; Richard W., born December 27, 1843; Louisa J. Shaw, born January 2, 1846, died April 15, 1871; Juliette A., born April 21, 1847; William W., born February 4, 1849; Thomas B., born November 4, 1853, and died January 28, 1876; Charles M., born August 19, 1855; Frank, born August 23, 1857, and died December 6, 1863.

Mr. Turner again married, on September 27, 1871, Miss Salina V. F. Rogers, in Virginia, and the following are his children: William H., born August 12, 1872; George R., born August 3, 1874; Edward, born September 19, 1876, and died October 3, 1876; Leland J., born November 15, 1877.

**TAYLOR, WILLIAM H.**, is a native of Des Moines county, Iowa, and born March 1, 1845. Here he resided until 1852, when he emigrated to Jamestown, Tuolumne county, Cal., coming via the Isthmus, and arrived at that place in December, of that year. After two years, he returned to Iowa, and remained there until 1856, when he again came to California. At this time he settled in Oroville, Butte county, Cal., where he married Elizabeth J., daughter of J. M. Vance, M. D., then a resident of that place. In March, 1875, he came to Suisun, and has since been engaged in the mercantile business, under the firm name of Vance & Taylor. Their children are, Mary Alice, James Vance, Hattie May, and Jennie Belle.

**VANCE, M. D., JAMES MONROE**, the subject of this sketch, was born in Rogersville, Hawkins county, East Tennessee, 27th January, 1827. Sometime during the year 1832 his parents moved to Battle Creek, Marion county, Tenn., where the subject of this sketch received his primary education. During his eight years' residence at this place his father died, and he was then sent to live with a brother in Jackson county, Alabama, finishing his education at the Missouri Academy. In 1840 he, with his brother, took a residence in Arkansas, where Mr. Vance taught school two years, then went to Memphis, Tenn., commencing the study of medicine with P. H. Lane, M. D., and afterwards attended the Memphis Medical College, from which he graduated January 28, 1848. Moved to Arkansas, where he married Mary Butler, daughter of John Butler. They changed their residence to Waldron, Scott county, Ark., where he not only practiced his profession, but was appointed Land Commissioner, and speculated in lands, as well as carrying on a mercantile business. Emigrated to California, settling in Oroville, Butte county, in 1856, where he was elected to the State Senate, on the Democratic ticket, in 1859. Came to Suisun March 1, 1875. His children are Mrs. Lizzie J. Taylor, Dr. A. W., and John B.

**VEST, JOHN**, is the proprietor of the Roberts' House in Suisun, and was born in Ireland, December 15, 1826. He came to America when nine years old, with his parents, settling in Washington county, N. Y. In 1851 he started for California, arriving on June 13th of that year, locating in San Francisco. Was engaged in mining for several years, after which he moved to Marysville, thence over the mountains to Storey county, Nevada, in 1862; thence to Washoe county, and on December 2, 1869, came to this township, settling on what is now known as the Rush rancho. He afterwards, in company with Thomas Melburn, bought a farm, which they now own. Moved to Suisun, where he married Mrs. Margaret Roberts, and has since been in charge of the Roberts' Hotel.



**WATERMAN, ROBERT H.**, for many years a commander in the Mercantile Marine, was born in the city of New York, March 4, 1808. In 1820, he shipped on board a sailing vessel as a cabin boy, and passed through all the positions and grades of offices to master and owner of a full-rigged ship. The latter office was conferred on him in 1833, which he continuously held until 1851. Has five times sailed around the world. He with Captain A. A. Richie, came to Fairfield, buying four leagues of land, in 1848, after which, Captain Waterman permanently located here in 1850. He is the founder of the town of Fairfield, and great credit is due him for taking a lively interest in all that goes to make the county in which he lives prosperous. Married Miss Cordelia, daughter of David Sterling, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, in 1846.

**WELLS, JAMES T.**, was born in Lincoln county, Missouri, on September 24, 1845, and when quite young he, with his parents, moved near Quincy, Lincoln county, Illinois, and in 1856 they emigrated to this State, coming via Nicaragua route, arriving on January 19th, of that year. They immediately settled in this valley, where he has since resided. Received his primary education at the University of the Pacific, at Santa Clara, Cal., and finished the same at the Napa Collegiate Institute. He was first appointed Deputy Sheriff in 1871, and has since held that position with the exception of a short time while engaged as a Deputy Assessor. Married Frances L. Donaldson, July 5, 1872. She died December 18, 1875. Carrie Pearl is the only child by this marriage. He again married, Carrie Johnson, daughter of C. Johnson, Esq., on June 6, 1878.

**WENDELL, J. F.**, was born in Farmington, Franklin county, Maine, on January 21, 1845. On October 2, 1854, he arrived, with his parents, in San Francisco, via Nicaragua, and accompanied them to Crescent City, Del Norte county, where his father had been one of the pioneer settlers, in 1849. He studied law with Judge J. P. Haynes, and was admitted to the bar in May, 1867. In the fall of 1869 Mr. Wendell came to Vallejo, where he located as a practicing lawyer, continuing his profession in that city until elected to the position of District Attorney, in 1871, when he transferred his residence to Suisun, where he has since resided. Mr. Wendell occupies a prominent position among the legal lights of Solano county. He married, November 12, 1874, Emma G., daughter of James W. Kinloch, by whom he has, Susie S., born December 25, 1876, and an infant, born February 8, 1879.

**WING, JOSEPH**, (deceased.) The subject of this sketch was born in Bonstable county, Massachusetts, April 4, 1799. He married in his native place, Mercy F. Crosby, a native of the same county. They moved to



Monroe, Madison county, N. Y.; thence to Hillsdale county, Michigan, Mr. Wing coming to California in 1849; but his family returned to Massachusetts, joining Mr. W. in August, 1852. After Mr. Wing's arrival in San Francisco, in 1849, he kept store in the ship "Diantha," which he had brought with him from Boston. He commenced running a brig to Suisun Island—as it was then called—in the fall of 1850, and for some time did nearly all the carrying business of the place. He was a man of worth, and beloved by all who knew him. Morris, of San Francisco, Chilbysworth C., of Roberts Island, and Joseph, Jr., are their children.

**WING, Jr., JOSEPH**, was born in Medina, Monroe county, N. Y., September 1, 1838. He moved with his parents to Hillsdale county, Michigan, and with his mother to Bonstable county, Massachusetts, and emigrated to California, arriving in August, 1852, settling in Suisun. His father had previously settled here. He is now Manager of the water-works, a trust he has held with credit, both to himself and the company with whom he is associated. He married Grace, daughter of Daniel McDonald, a native of Massachusetts, on December 29, 1877. Ruby Elmer is their only child.

**WOLF, WILLIAM**, is a native of Germany, where he was born March 8, 1840, and educated in the German language. Emigrated to the United States in 1853, where, locating in New York City, he finished his education. In 1859 he went to Tallahassee, Florida, engaging in general merchandising. Returning to New York City in 1863, engaging in manufacturing and importing. May 12, 1869, he moved to and settled in San Francisco, Cal., and in August, 1870, came to Suisun, Solano county, where he has since maintained a permanent residence. Was appointed by George C. McKinley, Deputy County Recorder, and re-appointed to the same position by E. F. Gillespie in 1874, which position he held until the death of Mr. Gillespie in 1875, when he was appointed County Recorder by the Board of Supervisors. After the expiration of his term of office, in March, 1876, he was appointed to his present position of Cashier of the Bank of Suisun. January 28, 1868, he married Carrie, daughter of Raphael Meyer, of New York City. Addie, their only child, was born February 27, 1869.

**WOLFSKILL, MATHIAS**, was born in Howard county, Mo., August 11, 1810, where he resided for forty years, when, on May 16, 1850, he, with his family, left for California, and, enduring the hardships of a journey across the plains, arrived at the ranch of his brother, John R. Wolfskill, on Putah Creek, on September 30th of that year, and resided on the banks of that stream until he moved to his present property in Suisun

township, in the fall of 1866. His ranch comprises seven hundred acres. He married, September 1, 1831, Permelia Ashcroft, by whom he has two children alive, John, a resident of San Diego county, and Joseph C., who resides with his father.

**WOODS, JOHN**, was born in Darke county, Ohio, November 5, 1825, and in 1833 moved with his parents to Kosciusko county, Indiana, where his father died and he was educated. In the year 1849 he crossed the plains to California, by ox-team, and on arrival settled in Napa county, where he engaged for a short time in mining, and afterwards in farming and stock-raising, which he continued until 1860, when he came to this county and located in Suisun valley, where he has since maintained a continual residence. Was elected Public Administrator of Napa county in 1855, Assessor for Solano county in 1875, and has held for several years, at different times, the minor positions of School Trustee and Road Master. In 1852 Mr. Woods paid a visit to his home, returning in the following year. He married Cynthia A., daughter of J. W. Aldrich, of Solano county, and has Nellie, Warren A., Clara, Sarah, and John.

**BERRY, GEORGE M.**, was born in Marion county, Tennessee, May 6, 1837. When about two years old, he, with his parents, moved to Christian county, Ills., where he was engaged as a farmer until 1849, when they changed their place of residence to Sangamon county, in that State. In the spring of 1863, Mr. Berry left home for California, crossing the plains with mule teams, arriving in Suisun valley on July 26, 1863. Here he worked for other parties for eighteen months, and then rented the land known as the Barbour tract, for four years; then bought a portion of the Keeney tract, four miles west of Suisun, which he sold in 1877. He married Nancy Barbour, September 5, 1869. She is a daughter of Nathan Barbour, a pioneer settler in this county. George M. is their only child. Mrs. Berry was born in Suisun valley, September 24, 1851.

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NOTE.—The above was received too late for insertion in its proper place.

## GREEN VALLEY.

**BALDWIN, J. M.**, was born in Troy township, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, June 14, 1826, where he resided until October 16, 1852, at which time he left for California, via New York City, arriving in San Francisco November 18, 1852. Having previously learned the carpenter's and joiner's trade, he engaged in that pursuit. The Winter of 1852 and the year 1853 he spent in Sacramento, after which he moved to Amador county, working in the southern mines for three months; thence to Placerville, El Dorado county, working at his trade. In May, 1854, went to Oregon, but after two months returned to San Francisco. July, 1854, moved to what was then called Mormon Station, Nevada, where he engaged to build a grist and saw mill. He afterwards went to Carson Valley, followed farming until the Fall of 1864, when he came to Green Valley township, purchasing his farm, where he has since resided. Married Miss Carrie Cary, September 11, 1864. Katie, Bertha, J. Monson, and Carrie Louise, are their children.

**BIHLER, HENRY**, born in Effingen, Grosherzogehun, Baden, on September 16, 1831, and emigrated to the United States, landing in New York City in 1850, and next day went to Baltimore, Maryland, where he remained for five years. In 1856 he came to Napa county, California, and carried on the business of butcher in the city of that name for thirteen years. In 1869 he moved to Cordelia, where he carries on his occupation of a butcher. He married, May 9, 1858, Agatha Hock, by whom he has: Louisa, born February 21, 1859; Wilhelmina, born October 1, 1860; Mary Agatha, born July 15, 1862; Sophia, born September 19, 1864; William Henry, born May 27, 1866, since dead; William Henry, died September 6, 1867; Othilea, born September 14, 1868; Frederick W. born December 22, 1870; Bertha, born December 15, 1874, and George Henry, born January 20, 1876.

**HATCH, A. T.**, native of Elkhart county, Indiana; born January 31, 1837. When six years of age his parents moved to Niles, Michigan, where he attended common school for five years. He then went back to Elkhart, and attended school until fifteen years of age, when he went to Michigan City, Indiana, and clerked in a grocery store for his father for one year. His father had a bar in connection with the store, and as the whisky business was distasteful to A. T. he left home, having only \$17 in his

pocket, and went to Marquett, Indiana, and clerked for \$10 per month, for one year, and afterwards worked in a flouring mill at \$15 per month for six months, when he was appointed superintendent of the whole affair, which position he held for one year, when he resigned. He then went to Cincinnati, and clerked in a large dry goods house about four months, after which he clerked in a hardware store for about one year, when he emigrated to California, crossing the plains with a drove of sheep. A gentleman in company with Mr. Hatch, C. C. Goodrich, walked all the way, cooked for the company, and stood guard every third night. The company started from Council Bluffs May 22, 1857, and arrived at Big Meadows, in Plumas county, September 8th, the same year. He immediately went to the North Fork of the Feather river, and mined for Daniel Kirkham about three months, afterwards engaged in mining and sheep-herding for some time, and finally bought an interest in the Dutch Hill mine, where he mined with good success until September 1860. He then made a trip to Michigan, and on March 14, 1861, he married, at Cass county, Michigan, Miss Mary Graham. On April 3, 1861, he and his newly-wedded wife started for California, with horse team, bringing a band of horses across with them. Arrived at Mountain Meadows August 22, 1861. In November he went to Cordelia county, where he and wife worked for \$40 per month, and in the spring he bought a ranch, and after farming it one year lost his ranch, owing to a defect in the title. He then leased it for one year, and on October 12, 1863, he went to Lander county, Nevada, where he prospected for a short time, and then went to Monmouth district, where he located several mines, among which was the Niagara Falls, and from which he extracted a handsome fortune. In January, 1871, he went to San Francisco, and in February following he came to this county and bought the place where he now lives, consisting of 264½ acres, situated about three miles north of Cordelia. Has reared a family of three children, one of whom is living, as follows: Arthur T., born August 28, 1864, and died June, 1870; Mary E., born June 2, 1868; Jennie P., died September, 1871.

**HUMPHREYS, JAMES H.**, of Cordelia, was born in Harrodsburg, Kentucky October 9, 1824. He received his early education in Georgetown in that State, and in 1839 removed to Hannibal, Missouri, with his parents. Ten years later he emigrated to California and prosecuted mining for two years at Placerville and vicinity. In the years 1851-'53 he was in trade in El Dorado county, and in the following year he located on the Sacramento and Placerville road and dealt in hay and grain. In 1855 Mr. Humphreys moved to Folsom, and there acted as agent for the Natoma Ditch Company for five years. In 1860 he went into business in Lincoln, Placer county; in 1863 moved to Colfax; thence, in 1865, to Sisco,



Placer county, from which place he went to Truckee in 1868, and in 1872 located in Cordelia, where he has since prosecuted his trade, selling dry goods. Is postmaster of the district. He married, October 1858, Katherine Sullivan, who was born in Boston December 19, 1840, by whom he has: Alice M., born 1859; Katie, born 1861; Harry J., born 1863; Daisy, born 1868; Maggie, born 1871; Charles, born 1874, and Frank, born 1876.

**JEWELL, W. T.**, is a native of Sacramento city, California, where he was born on September 26, 1855. His earlier years were passed at the Seminaries of Calistoga, in Napa county, and Rio Vista, Solano county, after which entered business as clerk in the post office at Calistoga, where he served during the years 1875-6. In the month of August in the latter year he was employed as operator in the telegraph office at Yountville, in the same county, and in April, 1878, he moved to Cordelia and took charge of the telegraph office for Cal. P. R. R. Co. there, and on February 1, 1879, he became agent for Cal. P. R. R. Co. and Wells, Fargo & Co., which position he still holds.

**JONES, F. S.**, was born in Windsor county, Vermont, March 1, 1828, where he was primarily and academically educated, first in the common schools, second in the Woodstock University. He changed his place of residence in 1849 to Brighton, Mass., and emigrated to this State in 1853, crossing via the Isthmus, settling in San Francisco, five years after which he moved to Sonoma where he abode ten years when he came to his present farm in Green Valley township, since maintaining a permanent residence. He is the largest grape grower in the valley as well as the most extensive manufacturer of all kinds of wine, which is fully set forth in the township history. Married in Sonoma, Mary, daughter of William Swift, a native of Henry county, Kentucky, in 1858. Mary J., Frederick H. S., and Luman H. are their children.

**PITTMAN, C. J.**, (deceased.) Born in England in the city of Bristol, in the year 1824, and emigrated to California in 1850, where he engaged in hotel keeping in Grass Valley, and conducting the International Hotel in San Francisco, after which he moved to Grass Valley, there also pursuing the same occupation. In 1854 he returned to England and having married, he, accompanied by his wife, returned to the United States and landed in New York City, but only sojourned there six weeks. Mr. Pittman once more started for California in the fall of 1854, on board the steamer "Sierra Nevada," and, arriving in San Francisco he became proprietor of the City Hotel there, which he carried on for some time. In 1855 he settled in Cordelia, where he kept a hotel, and moving once more in 1862, he built the Bridgeport house, which establishment is now kept by his widow.

Mr. Pittman married in Bristol, England, Louisa J. May, of that city, May 28, 1864, by whom there is an only daughter, Carrie E. J. He died in 1864.

**PIERCE, LEWIS**, the subject of this sketch is a native of York county, Maine, and born March 16, 1832. Here his father died when he was but five years old, and at the age of ten he took up a residence in Baldwin. At the age of fifteen removed to Bedford, York county, Maine, where he was educated in a Grammar school. It is no easy task to give the reader an idea of the sufferings, hardships and toils this boy experienced, thrown into the world as he was and on his own resources to obtain a livelihood at the age of ten. But with a courage that is commendable in one so young, and a determination to surmount all obstacles be they great or be they small, he went at work with a will, saved his earnings, and in March, 1851,—then but 15 years old—had sufficient funds to pay for a passage on the steamer "Pacific" to San Francisco, arriving July 2d of that year. For five years after his arrival in that city he was apprentice to a baker, after which he did business on his own account for five more years, then came to Suisun with a few thousand dollars, engaging in the grain trade amassing a fortune equalled by few in this county. Married Miss Nellie B. Staples, January 22, 1874. On a plateau in a westerly direction from Suisun, on the banks of Suisun Creek, stands Mr. Pierce's handsome new residence. The location is one of the most picturesque and attractive to be met with in this part of the county. It commands a magnificent view of the bold mountains that fringe the western border of Suisun valley. Half encircling it, is a grand amphitheatre of cliffs dotted with timber, grass lands and cultivated fields. The building is of wood, two stories above a basement of cut stone, constructed in a most substantial manner, and in an unique and highly attractive style of architecture. It is finished and furnished in a manner appropriate to such an enterprise. This house enjoys a happy combination of the useful and the beautiful. It is a well-lighted, ventilated, convenient and cheerful home. Everything pertaining to its construction is substantial, heavy, rich and elegant, but not gaudy.

**SCHULTZ, C., & Co.** The brothers, C. and Henry Shultz are natives of Hamburg, Germany. The latter came to California in 1853, and in the spring of that year went to the mines, remaining until 1855, when he came to this county, settling near Bridgeport where he engaged in farming. In 1858 moved to Sacramento county, returning that fall buying his present farm in Green Valley township. Mr. C. Shultz came from Germany in 1860 joining his brother in business in the fall of that year. He married Anna Schacht in 1871. Their children are Maggie C. S., and

Gesine Henry. These brothers are engaged in manufacturing wine from their own vineyard, a full account of which appears in the history of this township.

**WILSON, CURTIS.** After receiving the foundation of a practical education, in the year 1848, with the rest of the world, Mr. Wilson emigrated to California, first proceeding to Oroville, Butte county, where he engaged in mining. He only continued at this occupation for one year, when, in 1850, he came to the Suisun valley and embarked in the occupation of farming. In 1852 he was elected to the office of Constable for Suisun township, which position he held until the year 1855, when he was called upon to take his seat as a Justice of the Peace for Green Valley township. Mr. Wilson was elected to the office at the general election of 1855 and filled the position until 1879, a lengthy period of twenty-four years. In the year 1860 he was one of the Associate Justices of the Court of Sessions. In 1867 he came to Cordelia, and in the following year was appointed station agent of the California Pacific Railroad Company and agent for Wells, Fargo & Co., which he held until this year.

On February 7, 1866, Mr. Wilson married Miss Melia A. Gilmore, who was born in Rockbridge county, Virginia, April 14, 1829, by whom he had an only child, Thomas, who died March 24, 1870. Mr. Wilson was born in Wayne county, Illinois, June 18, 1827.

## BENICIA.

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**BENNETT, WILLIAM F.**, is a native of England, born at Birmingham, August 23, 1822, and left his home at the age of seven for Australia, where he served an apprenticeship as carpenter in Sydney, remaining there until 1849, when he sailed for San Francisco, arriving in August. After two weeks he came to Benicia and began work at the Government Barracks, where he was employed on and off till 1874, when he went to Australia and sojourned for three years, again returning to Benicia, where he has since resided. Mr. B. married Mary Ann Boornes, a native of Scotland, March, 1874, she being born Septembr 2, 1833.

**BROWN, JOHN R.**, was born in Nova Scotia in 1845, where he learned the business of tanning and currying. He resided there until 1855, when he went to Woodburn, Mass., remaining there till 1859, when, in May of that year, he went to California and resided in Tuolumne county for one year, when, in the spring of 1860, he went to Santa Clara valley, where he began farming. In the fall of 1861 he purchased an interest in a stock farm on King's river and began the raising of stock, when the the flood of 1862 swept away most of the cattle. This disgusted him with the business, so sold out and returned to Santa Clara valley, where he found employment. He then went to Stockton and began tanning on a small scale. On March 16, 1866, he came to Benicia and again engaged in the tanning business. Messrs. McKay and Chisholm being afterwards in partnership in the same business.

Mr. Brown married Annie Ross in 1863, by whom he has two children, Anna L. and Elma D. Mr. B. is a member of the I. O. O. F. and has held office in the City.

**BURNS, JAMES**, was born in Ireland in the year 1840, and emigrated to the United States in 1864, first settling in California, for the last ten years of which he has been in this county, and for the last five years on his present farm. Married, in 1871, Mary Linehan, by whom he has John, Mary, Julia, Katie, Dennis, and an infant.

**CHISHOLM, A.**, is a native of Nova Scotia, and was born in 1845. In 1865 he went to the United States and settled in Boston, where he was engaged in the business of tanning and currying, remaining only a short time, when he started for California, first settling in Santa Cruz, where he resided for a little over a year. He then came to Benicia and connected himself in the same business in 1867, which he still continues.



**CLYNE, JAMES**, manufacturer of wagons, carriages, and agricultural implements, was born in County Longford, Ireland, February 22, 1847. In 1863 he came to California, and on September 20th of that year arrived in Benicia. There he served his apprenticeship with Charles Crawford Allen at his trade. In 1868 he established himself in the business which he still continues. Married in San Jose, May 14, 1871, Mary Donlon, by whom he has Joseph F., born February 14, 1872; Mary M., born September 9, 1874; Frederick, born February 23, 1877, and Therese, born March 25, 1879.

**CUMMINGS, FRANCIS**, is a native of Prince Edward's Island, having been born November 18, 1839, where he lived till the age of 18, and learned the trade of tanning and currying, when he went to South Hingham, Mass.; thence to Woburn, Mass., where he resided until 1873. Enlisted in Company G, 5th Mass. V. I.; serving one year, and participating in a number of engagements in North Carolina, under Major-General Foster, 18th Army Corps; after which he was honorably discharged, and returned to Mass., where he resided till 1873, when he emigrated to California, first settling in Benicia on 16th of June of that year, and established a tannery, a history of which will be found in its proper place. Married in Woburn, Mass., Martha C. Richardson.

**DALTON, ALFRED**, was born in London, England March 13, 1830. At the age of 13 he went to sea, which he followed till 1852, during which period he visited his native place several times. He arrived at San Francisco in July, 1852, on the clipper ship, "Antelope." Thence he went to Sutter Slough, and engaged in gardening and chopping wood. He remained there until April, 1853, when he was obliged to leave on account of a flood; and having made some slough boats, was enabled to drift down with the current to old Rio Vista, where he resided till the flood subsided, which was about three weeks. Thence he went to Cache Creek Slough, and fixed a tent in the fork of a tree for fear of another flood, and continued the same occupation until 1855, and came to Benicia in July or August of that year. In 1859 he laid the first pipe to supply the city of Benicia with water. In 1860 he purchased a schooner and traded in general merchandise on the Sacramento river, and returned to Benicia January 1, 1862, where he has since remained. Mr. Dalton has held the office of School Director for six consecutive years, being elected in 1873. He is now clerk of the Board, and supervisor of this county, being elected September, 1878, on the Republican ticket.

Mr. D. married Mary Kenny in 1857, at Benicia, who died in 1871, by whom he has a family: John H., Alfred, Willie, James C., George E., Ella Florence, living, having lost four children—one daughter and three sons. Mr. D. married again in August, 1873. Emma Carr, by whom he has no issue.

**DEMING, CAPTAIN JOHN**, (deceased,) was born in Preston, Connecticut, January 9, 1792, where he resided till 1808, when he went to sea, and at the age of twenty-one years old, was commander of a vessel following the sea for many years; his last sea voyage being on the ship, "Iowa," which brought General Riley to the State of California, and landing at Monterey, the place for which they were chartered, early in 1849. From there they proceeded to Benicia, where he afterwards was engaged as a pilot, between Benicia, Vallejo, and San Francisco, for many years. He married Clarissa Hillard, in Preston, Connecticut, September 11, 1817. She was born in Preston, January 29, 1792, and died in New York City December 18, 1846. By this union they had six children. Ann Louisa, born July 10, 1821, who married, in New York City, Charles Edward Shea, died, in New York City, July 27, 1857, leaving four children and her husband died, in New York City, November 21, 1859. Their third son, Edward, was born March 18, 1826, and was married in Peakskill, N. Y., on March 18, 1850, to Esther McCoord. He died in New York City, March 1, 1852, leaving an only son, who is now residing in Brooklyn, N. Y. Clarissa J., born June 19, 1829, in New York City, died June 23, 1830. Charles, born in New York City, October 29, 1832, died November 30, 1833. Charles Benjamin, born in New York City, March 29, 1837, now residing with his brother, John F., was married to Mrs. Annie G. Corwin, on August 12, 1868. John F. Deming, proprietor of Glen Cove Ranch, the second of the family, was born in New York City, July 9, 1823, where he resided till February, 1849, when he sailed for San Francisco, arriving there in the latter part of June, 1849. He immediately proceeded to the mines, on the north fork of the American river, and prosecuted mining for a few months when he returned to Sacramento in December, 1849, and began the general merchandise business on K street, when the flood of 1850 swept away all of his possessions. He then proceeded across the river. In April, 1852, he returned to New York, and on December 16, 1852, was married to Mehetabel C. Geron, she being born in Blooming Grove, Orange county, N. Y., December 12, 1823. Mr. D. returned to California in 1853, and immediately proceeded to Benicia, where he remained as book-keeper until the spring of 1855, and again returned east, where he remained one year. In June, 1856, he again returned to California, this time being accompanied by his wife, and settling on their present estate, where he now owns 460 acres of land, all under good improvements. Their family consists of two children; Clara, born November 19, 1858, and Henry B., November 14, 1861.

**DILLON, PATRICK W.**, farmer and stone cutter, Section 28, Benicia Township, Post-office Benicia, was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, February

3, 1820, where he resided till May, 1840, when he sailed for America, arriving in New York City in June of that year. He at once proceeded to Troy, N. Y., and resided three months; thence to Lockport, N. Y., and remained one year. He then proceeded to Youngstown, on fourth Niagara, where he worked at his trade during the summer of 1842, and from there he went to Toronto, Canada, where he spent the winter of 1842, and '43. In March, 1844, he went to New York City, and worked till 1846, when in the fall of that year he went to St. Johns, New Brunswick, where he was employed till May, 1847. He again returned to New York and carried on his trade till January, 1849, when he sailed for California, arriving in San Francisco July 8, 1849, and remaining in the city for a few weeks helping unload vessels at eight dollars a day. He then proceeded to the southern mines, on Wood's creek, and worked two months at mining with good success. He then went to Mogason's Creek, and from there to Mariposa, Mariposa county, but meeting with poor success he returned to Mogason Creek with a colony of Texans, who settled there for a short time, and continued mining in different places till May, 1851, during which time he endured many hardships. The stories told by Mr. D., during his life spent in the mines, are very interesting, but for want of space we will have to omit them. In May, 1851, he came to Benicia, bringing with him eighteen hundred dollars, which he invested in the wharf built at Vallejo while the Capitol of the State was situated at that place.

In 1851, he opened a stone quarry on his fruit farm, and in connection with the other, started the Pioneer Stone business in San Francisco, and among the contracts taken by him, is the St. Mary's Cathedral, at San Francisco, and many other buildings. In 1856, he purchased his present farm, now consisting of four hundred acres of land, and seventy-six acres of tule. He married, at St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco, Bertha G. Jordan, January 6, 1856, she having been born in Hanover, Germany, January 29, 1830.

**DURNER, GEORGE ADAM.** G. A. Durner was born at Weilheim, in Wurtemberg, Germany, February 16, 1827. In his early life he was apprenticed to a tailor, and has pursued his trade ever since. In 1847 he left Germany for America, and arrived in New York in April of the same year.

While working at his trade in New York he formed the acquaintance of one Rosy Anthers, the youngest daughter of the family of that name, to whom he was married in 1851. She was born at Algei, in Damstadt, Germany, September 10, 1831, and came to America in 1848, and resided in New York. In 1858 Mr. Durner left New York for California, by way of the ocean, and was followed the year afterwards by his wife and



children. He arrived in San Francisco the forepart of May, but remained there only one month, after which he came to Benicia, where he built himself a splendid home and has resided ever since, except at one or two intervals.

In 1863 he went to Virginia City, Nevada, where he worked both at his trade and at mining, for about six months, after which he returned to Benicia. He then worked at his trade until 1874, when he was employed by the firm then known as Brown, McKay & Co., tanners, as night watchman, and has remained there ever since, although the firm is now known as McKay & Chisholm.

The products of his marriage were eleven children ; five were born in New York, two of whom died, both girls, and the remaining six were born in Benicia, one of which, a son, died some two years ago. At present he has living three sons, named John George, Charles, and Henry, the fourth son, Georgie, having died September 21, 1870. His daughters, five in number, are named Katie, Elizabeth, Matilda, Annie, and Henrietta. The two former are married and live at present in Benicia. The remaining children are at present at home going to school.

His eldest child and son, John G., is at present employed as traveling agent for W. S. Townsend's Steam Candy Factory, San Francisco.

The second son, Charles, was for a while employed as salesman in a large clothing house at San Francisco, after which he came to Benicia and started a business for himself, known as Durner's Palace of Sweets. He is but nineteen years of age, being born January 14, 1860. He has a thriving business and is doing well.

His third son, Henry, was rather unfortunate in being born a cripple, March 23, 1862, being but seventeen years of age. He received a somewhat advantageous education, having entered St. Augustine College when but thirteen years of age, in August, 1875. He graduated here on June 1, 1878, with the first honors of his class and of the school. He was but sixteen years of age, still he was chosen to deliver the valedictory address on the occasion of his graduating, which won for him the hearts of many strangers. On September 28, 1878, he was appointed Page of the Constitutional Convention, then assembled at Sacramento, by the President of that body. He remained there the full session, which lasted until March, 4, 1879, since which time he has been studying law at his home in Benicia.

Mr. Durner is considered one of the most faithful and law-abiding citizens of Benicia. He is honest and upright in all his dealings, and his character is without a stain. His moral character can not be exceeded, and he is a diligent employe, aiming to do everything to the interest of his employers. He has lived a quiet life, never mixing himself in political affairs, and always casting his vote according to his sound judgment.



**ENOS, JOSEPH**, was born in 1834. In 1852 he emigrated to the United States, and followed the sea for seven years. In 1859 he settled in Bedford, Mass., where he remained a short time, and in 1860 came to California, and worked in the mines for two years; thence he came to Benicia, where he has since resided on his farm of 195 acres. Married to Mary Roderick in 1869, by whom he has a family of five: Constantine, born 1870; Joseph, born 1872; Mary, born 1874; John, born 1875, and Isabella, born 1877.

**FISCHER, JOSEPH**, was born in Switzerland, March 7, 1823, where he received his education. In 1844 he emigrated to the United States, first settling in Staten Island, fourteen miles from New York, where he found employment on a farm. He remained there one year, when he went to New York City, residing there until the spring of 1849, during which time he was employed in various ways. On March 7, 1849, he started across the plains for California, and arrived in Sacramento September 20, 1849, where, after about ten weeks, he went to Benicia, and engaged in butchering, with Lawrence Graber, which they continued two years, at the expiration of which they had saved some money. His partner wished to return to the States, and died in Salt Lake City. Mr. Fischer then took another partner, John Gorring, but a dissolution occurred in 1861, since which time he has conducted the business alone. Mr. F. married Catherine Hall in May, 1854, by whom he has three children.

**GRAY, SAMUEL C.**, born in Boston, Mass., October 11, 1816, where he received his early education. At the age of sixteen went to Baltimore, and from there came to California. Married Miss Lucy, daughter of Chauncey Wetmore, of Middletown, Conn., December 14, 1847. In January, 1849, started for California, by way of Panama, where they waited seven weeks for the steamer "Panama," and arrived at Benicia June 3, 1849. Had remained in Benicia in business until elected County Treasurer in 1861. Has been in business, in the leather trade in Benicia, since June, 1867. Was a Trustee of the city of Benicia for seven years, until he left for San Francisco. Is the author of the interesting lecture on "Recollections of Benicia" in this work.

**HANBRICK, PETER**, was born in Rhenish Prussia, July 13, 1825, where he remained till 1849, serving an apprenticeship at the blacksmith trade for two years, when he emigrated to America, first settling in Boston, Mass., where he resided until 1851, when he sailed for California, December 18th, on the ship "Flying Child," and arrived in San Francisco April 12th. He immediately proceeded to the mines in Nevada, and continued mining till 1871, but during this time he visited his native place. He

then returned to San Francisco, where he lived till 1878, when he came to this county and engaged in farming and the manufacture of wine. Married Mrs. Mary Diet, June 19, 1871, who was born in Europe December 18, 1853, and who has, by her first marriage, two children. Mr. Hanbrick has three children: John, born July 8, 1872; Benjamin, born November 10, 1875; Clara, born March 17, 1878.

**HASTINGS, D. N.**, was born in Newton, Massachusetts, December 17, 1821, and at six years of age went to Brighton with his parents, where he remained five years, when he removed to Wollertown, Massachusetts, and resided there three years. At the age of fourteen he left home and went to Boston, where his time was spent in the provision business, the last seven years of which being hard work. On September 5, 1849, he left Boston for New York, and sailed thence on the bark "Florida" on September 12th. At that time it being impossible to obtain a through ticket to California, but could secure one to Chagres, Panama, where he remained four days, and continued his journey to Chagres, arriving in San Francisco December 1, 1849. On the Sunday following he was engaged in carpentering at \$12 per diem, when, at the end of one week, he was put in charge of eight men at \$20 per diem, and resigned that position on February 1, 1850. He then proceeded to Sullivan's creek, and turned his attention to mining, and worked for eight days, taking out \$40, when he started for Stockton, a distance of fifty-six miles, when, after a week, he went to San Francisco, and was engaged to work in Fulton Market, on Washington street, remaining there until May 6th, when he was sent to Benicia, and opened a butcher shop, where he built himself a small market, 12x14 feet, which he occupied four months. A year afterwards he purchased a lot and carried on his business there until May, 1852, when he sold out, leased his property, and returned East to bring out his family. They sailed on the ship "Onward," via Cape Horn, and arrived in San Francisco December 11, 1852, going to Benicia the same day, there finding the Sheriff in possession of his property. It cost him \$1,600 before he could recover it, after which he engaged again in the business of butcher, combining stock-raising with great success, till 1860, when he sold his business and retired, owning at the time three-fifths of 44,000 acres of land. He now possesses 3,000 acres. Mr. Hastings has never been a politician, although he held office under the city government of Benicia, and is at present one of the City Trustees.

The main house now occupied by Mr. Hastings was built by Dr. Woodbridge, from whom he purchased it in 1852, and has resided in it ever since. Mr. Hastings planted all the trees with his own hands. The property was originally owned by eleven men, it having been purchased in lots the ultimate size being 75x125 feet. The house at first was 20x30,

with a kitchen 8x12 feet, made of dry-goods boxes, which was rebuilt and is now 34x36 feet, the size of the lot being 270x450 feet. There are over seven hundred trees in the enclosure. Water is brought from a piece of land owned by Mr. Hastings over 9,000 feet to the house. The Seminary is also supplied in the same way. Mr. Hastings has five children: George A., born in Boston, Mass., December 8, 1846; William F., born in Boston, August 25, 1848; Hannah M., born in Benicia, March 8 1857; Alice (twin), born September 5, 1862; Eben J. (twin), born September 5, 1862.

**HOYT, JOSEPH**, born in Belknap county, N. H., November 14, 1830. Here he received his education, and when sixteen years old went to Essex county, Mass., where he learned the stone-cutter's trade, afterwards going to Virginia, following this occupation, but returned to his native home, and in 1853 came by the way of Nicaragua to California, arriving in San Francisco in December of that year. Here he resided until the spring of 1854, when he went to the mines, but settled in Benicia in July following. February, 1855 went to Mare Island, working for the Government, but in 1857 moved to Salt Point, Mendocino county, Cal., where he had the contract of cutting the stone which was to build the north battery at Alcatraz Island, San Francisco bay. Returned to Mare Island that year, removing to Contra Costa county in 1859, engaging in the stock trade. Again in 1862 we find him in Benicia, where he has since made it his home. Was elected to the office of County Assessor in 1871, since which time he has been agent for S. C. Hastings. Married Ellen A. Haggarty, at Vallejo, in 1855. They have Nellie J., Olivia R., Andrew J., Joe H. Orville L., Charles H., Walter D., and Maggie E.

**KINSTREY, THOS. T.**, was born in New York City, August 30, 1819, where he resided till 1852, when, on March 19th, he sailed for California in the ship "Pioneer." After being wrecked, he arrived in San Francisco September, 1852; thence coming to Benicia, and began business as boiler-maker for the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. In 1864 he commenced his present business, which he has since continued. Mr. K. married Laura Valentine, in 1854, by whom he has a family.

**KUHLAND, WILLIAM**, was born in Germany, in 1835, and emigrated to America in 1852, first settling in New Orleans, where he resided until 1858, when he came to California. He resided in Tuolumne county, and began his trade of boot and shoe maker, at Chinese camp, where he lived till 1861, when he moved to Copperopolis, Calaveras county, where he continued his trade for two years and a half, when he came to Benicia, August, 1867, where he again worked at his trade, and in 1870 he began



his business in the sale of gents' furnishing goods. Mr. Kuhland married Mary Seibert, in 1856, by whom he has four children : Lewis, Kate, Lillie and Mary. Mr. K. is a member of the I. O. O. F., Benicia.

**McKAY, THOMAS**, was born in Nova Scotia, in 1845, where he resided till 1862, when he went to Woburn, Massachusetts, remaining there until 1865; thence going to California and settling in Benicia, where he became a partner of the firm of Brown & McKay. In 1878 partnership was dissolved, and since, the firm has been McKay & Chisholm, engaged in the business of tanning and currying. Mr. McKay married Louise Harris, July 26, 1876, she also being a native of Nova Scotia, and born February 14, 1852. He has an only child, George Arthur, born September 7, 1877.

**McNALLY, BERNARD**, farmer; was born in County Cavan, Ireland, November 12, 1847. In 1860 he came to America, first settling in New York City, where he resided eight years, when, in 1868, he came to California, and settled on his present property. Married at San Francisco, August 18, 1873, Mary Fitzpatrick, a native of County Cork, Ireland.

**MIZNER, LANSING BOND**, was born in Monroe county, Illinois, on the 5th day of December, 1825. His father was educated for the law, in Geneva, New York, and settled in Illinois, in 1821, where he died eight years thereafter. His mother was the only daughter of Dr. Caldwell Caines, a leading member of the convention which formed the first constitution of Illinois, and niece of Shadrack Bond, the first Governor of that State.

Mr. Mizner was educated at Shurtleff College, Alton, Illinois, and in 1839 went with the American Legation, to New Granada, in South America, where he became familiar with the Spanish language. Returned to Illinois in 1843, and resumed his studies at the same college, and read law. In 1846 he joined the Third Regiment, Illinois Volunteers, en route for the Mexican war, and was appointed Commissary of the Regiment. On arriving at Carmarço, on the Rio Grande, he was detailed as Interpreter, on the staff of Gen. Shields, and ordered to join Gen. Wool's column, then invading Mexico from Texas. Was the bearer of dispatches to Gen. Taylor through the enemy's country, alone, from the Rio Grande to Monclova and Saltillo, and took part in the battle of Buena Vista, in February, 1847. Returned to Illinois in July, of that year, and resumed the study of law. Arrived in California, via New Orleans and Panama, on the 20th day of May, 1849, and in the same month settled in Benicia, purchased real estate, and a quarter interest in the mercantile firm of Semple, Robinson & Co., the then owners of the ship "Confederation" and her East India



cargo of goods. Took an active part in electing the delegates to the Monterey Convention, which formed the first Constitution of California, and on the formation of the State government, was elected an Associate Justice of the First Court of Sessions, of Solano county.

In 1853, Mr. Mizner was appointed by President Pierce Collector of Customs for the Northern District of California, which then included all that part of the State north of the Bay of San Francisco, and west of the Sacramento River, to the Oregon line; the Custom House being located at Benicia.

On the breaking out of the Rebellion in 1861, Mr. Mizner took strong grounds for the preservation of the Union, and has ever since been a firm Republican, and was elected to the State Senate in 1865, from Solano and Yolo counties. At the Session of 1867-8, was chosen President, pro tem., of the Senate, and was Chairman of the Committee on Commerce and Navigation, and also of the Committee on Swamp Lands.

As early as 1852, Mr. Mizner began to take a deep interest in connecting Benicia by rail with the interior of the State, and was a Delegate to the Convention, held in San Francisco in that year, on the general subject of Railroads. In 1866, he was sent as a special agent to Washington City, to procure Congressional aid for a railroad, from Benicia to Marysville, and succeeded in having a bill passed through the Senate making the usual land grant for that purpose; but, for want of time, it failed in the Lower House, since which time he has been the active leader in securing the completion of the great Overland Railroad through Benicia.

Mr. Mizner was admitted to practice law in the 7th District Court of California, on November 5, 1850, to the Supreme Court of the State March 9th, 1860, and to the Supreme Court of the United States, Dec. 6, 1866, and has been almost continually engaged in the practice of his profession ever since the first named date. He is a permanent resident of Benicia, has a wife and seven children, the oldest son a graduate of the State University of California, Class of 1879. Mr. Mizner is a life member of the Society of California Pioneers.

**NICHOLS, J. B.**, was born in Fall River, Mass., June 17, 1844, where he remained till about nine years old, when he went with his parents to California, first settling in Benicia, where he has since resided, being chiefly engaged in farming. Mr. Nichols married Mary K. Freeman, December 25, 1866, who was born in Michigan, September 21, 1847, and by whom he has five children. Mary O., born October 10, 1867, Clara B., born Dec. 5, 1869, Joseph T., born April 26, 1871, Hattie, born August 5, 1873, and Oscar H., born January 17, 1877. Mr. Nichols is a member of the Solano Lodge, No. 22, I. O. O. F.

**NICHOLS, WILLIAM H.**, was born in Berkeley county, Massachusetts, March 20, 1819, where he resided till seventeen years of age, when he went to North Carolina, remaining there thirteen years, and being engaged in merchandizing, lumbering, and ship building. In 1849, he returned to Massachusetts, and the following winter went again to North Carolina, and settled up his business. He sailed from New York, on board the steamer "Crescent City," June 1, 1850, via the Isthmus of Panama, and arrived in San Francisco August 24th. He immediately proceeded to Sacramento county, where he engaged in mining for about a year.

In November, 1851, he came to this county and purchased his present place, but returned to the mines, which, in November, 1852, he left and permanently settled where he now resides. For the last ten years Mr. Nichols has carried on a hay and grain business in San Francisco. His farm consists of 167 acres, all of which is under good improvement. He married at Fall River, Massachusetts, August 17, 1843, Eliza Dean, and has five children ; Joseph B., William D., Abbie A., Nathan D. and Mary G.

**OPPERMAN, JULIUS**, was born in Brunswick, Germany, in 1831, and emigrated to the United States in 1854, first settling in New York City, where he worked as a tailor till 1857, when, in the spring of that year, he came to California, via Panama. While in New York he enlisted in the Regular Army. From San Francisco he proceeded to Vancouver, Oregon, which was the headquarters of the 4th Infantry. He was afterwards stationed at Humboldt, remaining there three years and eight months. While at the latter place he acted as Hospital Steward for a time, thence he went to Hooper Valley, the port of Fort Gaston, to establish a new military post, where he remained till November, 1861, when the regiment was ordered East ; but, on arrival at San Francisco, he obtained his discharge on January 17, 1862, where he again worked at his trade till May of that year, and on the 28th came to Benicia, where he has since resided and carried on his present business.

Mr. Opperman married Maria Mitchell, a native of Ireland, at Humboldt, Cal., September 3, 1860, and has a family ; Katie, Mary, Lewis, Joseph, Julius, and William. Mr. O. has been Secretary of Phoenix No. 2, and an exempt fireman for several years.

**O'DONNELL, JOHN**, farmer, was born in County Limerick, Ireland, in 1824. In 1847 he emigrated to America and farmed in Onondaga county, New York, till 1852, on January 5th of which year he sailed from New York for California, being shipwrecked on the voyage, arriving ultimately in San Francisco in April of that year. In 1852 he proceeded to Benicia, where he remained two years, then moving to his present farm, consisting of 230 acres. Married in San Francisco, September 7, 1856, Ellen Kelly, by whom he has Mary F., Anna Eliza, John, and Thomas W.

**PERIN, AARON**, was born on March 4, 1806, and has a twin brother, Moses, who is living thirty miles back of Sandiogo, Cayuga county, New York, where he resided till 1810, when he with his parents sailed down the Ohio and located in Madison, ten miles from Cincinnati, Ohio, where he remained until 1814; thence he went to Fayette county, Indiana, near Cannonsville, where he lived till about 1840; after which he removed to Scott county, Iowa, and remained there until 1846, when he went to Dubuque, where he worked at the trade of blacksmith. On February 24, 1852, he, with his family, started for California across the plains, and arrived in Benicia early in October of same year, continuing his trade until 1877, when he retired into private life. Mr. Perin married Elizabeth Simpson, March 3, 1825, she being born in Kentucky, and died May 6, 1847, in Dubuque, Iowa, by whom he had eight children: Mary, born November 16, 1829; Zackariah Taylor, born April 18, 1847, still living; Rachel, Simpson, John A., William, Theodore, Isaac, deceased. Mr. Perin married his second wife, Mrs. Lucy A. McMan, December 19, 1847, she being born August 27, 1808, by whom he has no family.

**PRESTON, WILLIAM E.**, farmer, is a native of England, and came to America about 1847, first settling near Buffalo, New York, where he worked on a farm for two years. He then moved to Michigan, and there resided till the year 1852, thence removing to New York City, from whence he sailed in that year for California. On arrival he proceeded to the southern mines in Tuolumne county, and there remained four years. We next find Mr. Preston farming on what is known as the Pearson tract in Napa county, where he lived till 1871, then purchasing a ranch in Contra Costa county he removed thither for ten months, when he finally settled on his present farm of 90 acres. Married in 1860, Eliza Jane Powers, by whom he has Willie F., Mary G., Carrie Belle, and Catherine F.

**QUIGG, CHARLES**, was born in County Derry, Ireland, in 1831, and emigrated to America in 1845, settling in New York City, where he remained till January 20, 1851, serving an apprenticeship of boiler maker, when he sailed on board the "Brother Jonathan" to Nicaragua, thence to San Francisco on the ship "Pacific," arriving there March 16, 1851. There he stayed but three or four weeks, when he came to Benicia and engaged to work at his trade in the service of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. In 1863 he opened his present place of business. Mr. Quigg is an exempt fireman and has held the office of Roadmaster.

**RAUM, E. C.**, was born in Harrisburg, Pa., October 23, 1818, where he remained until 1828, when he removed to Franklin county, Pa., staying



there nine years, when he again moved with his parents to Wooster, Ohio. When at the age of twenty-five he went to Jefferson county, Iowa, remaining there about one year, spending a part of his time in Iowa City. He then proceeded to Lake Superior copper mine, when, after the lapse of nine years, again returned to Jefferson county and began a grist mill, which business he conducted till the breaking out of the Rebellion. In 1862 he crossed the plains to California, first settling near Woodland, Yolo county, where he engaged in farming, but at the end of two years was compelled to leave on account of drought. Thence he went to Carson valley, Nevada, where he remained four years, when he went to Marysville, and, in July, 1868, engaged in the manufacturing of gloves. Mr. Raum married his first wife in Jefferson county, Iowa, April 2, 1857, Louisa Muller, by whom he has five children living. She died in 1875. Married his present wife, Mary F. Acres, at Benicia.

**RIDDELL, GEO. HUSSEY**, was born at Nantucket May 25, 1810, where he resided till sixteen years of age and went to Boston and six years afterwards returned to Nantucket engaging in the business of dry goods. In 1849 he left New York and arrived in San Francisco December 1, 1849, thence coming to Benicia on December 8, where he again carried on a business of general merchandise. In 1855 he was elected Justice of the Peace, to which office he was again elected. In 1864 he was elected County Auditor and held that office two years. During the re-election of Abraham Lincoln he was chairman of the County Committee. Through his perseverance the county gave a majority of between four and five hundred. Mr. Riddell married Emma G. Barnard at Nantucket September 2, 1833, she being born October 14, 1814, by whom he has four children, George William, Mary C., Henrietta and Herbert.

**ROSE, ELISHA L.**, is a native of Ledyard, New London county, Connecticut, where he was born in July, 1828. On August 20, 1849, he sailed from New York City on the bark "Curtis" for California, arriving in San Francisco on March 8th of the following year. After working at his trade as a carpenter in San Francisco for two weeks he moved to Benicia, and there following his occupation; among other buildings built the old Solano Hotel. Shortly after he tried his luck at mining but in 1851 he returned to San Francisco and engaged for three or four months at ship work. After this he moved to Contra Costa county where he started a chicken ranch, when in the fall of 1852 he established himself on his present property. Is unmarried.

**RUEGER JOHN**, is a native of Switzerland and born on January 9, 1817. In 1834 he came to the United States settling in Washington City, where



he remained two years and a half when he returned to Switzerland. In 1848 he again came to America and in 1849 crossed the plains to California locating where Marysville now is. He was unable to perform any labor until 1850, when he began the erection of a brewery, it being the first built outside of San Francisco in the State. In 1855 he disposed of the business and came to Benicia where he again engaged in brewing. Mr. Rueger was elected City Treasurer of Benicia in May, 1878, for a term of one year. He was married in Switzerland to Barbera Shorwart in 1838, who died in 1842, by whom he has two children, Eliza Matilda and John. In January, 1843, he married his second wife Elizabeth Wartenweiler by whom he has one son Carl who is at present in Nevada.

**RYERSON, A. P.**, (deceased) was born in Patterson, New Jersey, December 11, 1822. When about thirteen years of age he went to New York and there learned his trade of silversmith, which he followed up to 1849, when he came to California passing his first year in Los Angeles. In 1850 he made a trip back to New York but returned in the same year and settled in Benicia where he conducted a hotel, and in 1855 settled on his present farm where great improvements have been made. Situated on the farm is what is known as the Ryerson Cotton-wood Grove covering ten acres of land, one of the few clusters of trees to be found in the township of Benicia. The trees are raised from seeds planted by Mr. Ryerson in the year 1858. The residence is situated midway between Vallejo and Benicia, and was up to his death on June 17, 1874, kept as a place of entertainment by Mr. Ryerson. He married at Benicia, Esther Bower, on March 1, 1855, by whom there is a large family, viz.: Henrietta, Isaac, Adrian, Virginia, Alice, George L., Clara M., Joseph G. and Anna Rebecca, who are now alive. Mrs. Ryerson resides on the farm.

**SAGE, TIMOTHY**, was born in Middleton, Connecticut, November 12, 1813, where he remained till the age of sixteen when he began the manufacture of Britannia ware at Yalesville, Connecticut, and stayed there until twenty-one years old when he returned to Middletown, when in 1845 he removed to St. Louis, Missouri, and engaged in the same business till the spring of 1850. In April of the same year he started for California across the plains arriving at Sacramento the latter part of August. He then went to the mines on the north fork of Dry Creek for a short time and did very well. In the spring of 1851 he came to Benicia where he has since resided, having started a brick-yard which business he carried on for a period of fifteen years. He is now engaged in farming. Mr. Sage married Mrs. Perlina Booth, September 20, 1853, by whom he has one son Charles P., born November 3, 1857, having lost five children, Edward T., Henry B., Nelson, William and Lillia. Mr. Sage is a Mason.

**SPALDING, CHARLES**, was born in Maine, February 9, 1819, and went with his parents when young to Suffolk county, Massachusetts, near Boston, where he remained till 1849, when he started for California via Cape Horn, arriving in San Francisco in September, whence he proceeded to the mines in Shasta and where he remained until the fall of 1850 when he went to Sacramento and began business in general merchandise which he continued till the fall of 1851. He then went to Colusa and engaged in the same business till 1868 when he came to Benicia and erected the Benicia Flouring Mill in the fall of the same year. Mr. Spalding was engaged in taking the census of the county; was also resident of Marshall in 1870. Mr. Spalding married Mary A. Silsby at Boston, Massachusetts, April 30, 1843, who died in Benicia January 3, 1876. Their only child Edward A. was drowned in the Sacramento river at the age of nine years.

**VON PFISTER, E. H.**, among the California pioneers Benicia claims several who still reside here and were of the most important citizens of the State in the days of '48, '49 and '50, and some were her citizens who have long since passed away, whose names will forever grace the pages of history of this part of the United States. Of the former, we propose to give herewith a brief biographical sketch of one who has been a resident of Benicia for over thirty years: we allude to E. H. Von Pfister. "Von," as he is familiarly called, first came to the coast of California in 1846; being so well pleased with the climate, he determined to settle in the State. With this object in view, he went down to the Sandwich Islands and purchased a stock of general merchandise and returned to this State in March, 1847. He had intended to open a store at San Jose, but, while yet at Yerba Buena (San Francisco), Dr. Semple, the founder of the city of Benicia, had heard of the advent of the enterprising Von Pfister, and he determined that the new stock of goods and its owner should be brought to Benicia. So he went to San Francisco in a whale-boat, and succeeded in getting Mr. Von P. to at least consent to visit Benicia. Embarking in the whale-boat with the Doctor, they occupied four days in making the voyage. They made soundings all the way up to verify the claims made by the Doctor that Benicia's location was unsurpassed for commercial purposes. Von Pfister says, being a sea-faring man, and finding a fine, ample channel for deep-sea vessels, and the result of his observations being that almost all large commercial cities were situated near the head of navigation, concluded this was the place for him to locate. He purchased an unfinished adobe building, and, after putting it in condition, opened out his stock of goods in August, 1847. The building is standing and is still his property; it is situated in the rear of Jos. Ewing's store, on First street. His trade was of a very satisfactory

character. The prices obtained for goods were much the same as those of the present day. There was very little cash. The standard currency of those days was hides, valued at \$1 50 each, which were frequently styled "California bank-bills." Corn, barley and other articles of produce were readily taken in lieu of coin. Early in May, 1848, one evening while a number of persons were assembled in Von's store talking over the prospects of the State, a gentleman present said a good coal prospect had been found near Mount Diablo. Another said if that was true and coal should be found to exist in quantity, a great future was in store for California; but without coal he did not think much of the State's prospects. A stranger, who had been a quiet listener to the conversation, said: "Gentlemen, I have something here which, if it is what I think it is, will beat a coal mine and make this the greatest country in the world." He then produced a little buckskin bag holding about \$100 worth of gold-dust. The dust varied in size from a flax-seed to a good-sized pea. This he handed around for the inspection of those present. He said his name was Bennett, and that the "stuff" had been found in Coloma while digging the race for the Sutter mill. Thinking it might be gold, he had brought it down to Sutter's Fort to find out; but as there were no chemicals there, he was on his way to Monterey to submit the metal to Governor Mason. If it was gold, there was any quantity of it. The Beniciaites were quite incredulous. A few days after this there was a great rush down the river and by land of people who possessed samples of the new discovery. Some carried it in old stockings, old boots, and anything that would hold the yellow dust. Some of those who came down the river had old rattlet-raps of boats which required constant bailing to keep afloat; pieces of blankets were utilized for sails, and all were greatly excited. About this time Samuel Brannan, Esq., who had been a shipmate of the subject of this sketch, came along, and said gold had really been discovered and that the mines were good. He advised Von to pack up his goods and go to the mines with them. This he did. He chartered Dr. Semple's flat-boat, and in six days reached Coloma with his goods. At Sacramento he was joined by Brannan with an equal quantity of goods, and the firm of Von Pfister & Brannan did a thriving business until October, when the former sold out and left the mines. In the spring of 1849 he returned to Benicia and rented the adobe building where stands the present Benicia Brewery, and opened a hotel. He paid \$500 a month rent, and \$150 per month for a cook; \$125 each for two stewards; \$100 each for a housekeeper and barkeeper. Notwithstanding these heavy expenses, Mr. Von Pfister cleared \$12,000 in eleven months. During his long residence in Benicia he has been three different times the proprietor of the Solano Hotel. The first deed on the records of the county is in the handwriting of Mr. Von P. He has filled official positions of honor, trust and importance. Von



has always had great faith that the future of Benicia was that of no ordinary town, and acquired considerable real estate in the place with this belief. In '48 or '49 he sold a lot on the corner of Pine and Dupont streets, San Francisco, for \$2,500, and immediately invested the money in Benicia property, which he still holds; and there are none here who are not pleased to congratulate the old gentleman that the time is near at hand when there will be a full realization of his fondest hopes of Benicia's prosperity.

**WALSH, CAPTAIN JOHN.**—The oldest inhabitant of Benicia, Captain John Walsh, deserves more than an ordinary notice. It is but seldom that a man is permitted to outlive God's statute of limitations — with as clean a record as that the subject of this sketch leaves behind him. He was born on the 25th of October, 1797, on Prince Edward's Island, Nova Scotia, of Irish parents. He went to sea at the early age of twelve, in the year 1809, as a "sailor boy" with his uncle on the ship "Partheon;" but "mine uncle" being too harsh, young Walsh went ashore at Liverpool, and his uncle never heard of him until some ten years later he met him in command of a ship at Gibraltar. In 1818 young Walsh was first officer of the ship "Honqua," sailing to China; and on her he came into the Bay of San Francisco in that year, and stopped at the Presidio, now Fort Point, and at Goat Island; and on the same voyage he went into the Columbia river, Oregon, which latter place he visited in command of a Government vessel forty-two years later. He afterwards commanded the ship "Gray Hound;" and in 1825 was sent by Messrs. Perkins & Co., of Boston, to the Pacific Ocean, in command of the ship "John Gilpin," where he ran his vessel as a regular packet from Valparaiso, in Chili, to Canton, for more than twenty years, having, on a short visit to Boston in 1830, married, and returned to Valparaiso with his wife, where seven children were born to them, all of whom are now dead. The last, the wife of Col. D. Fergusson, died in the city of Mexico some two years since; and soon after, his venerable wife, who had been his companion for nearly forty-six years, also died, leaving the old man, now over eighty years of age, alone in the world—the last leaf on the tree—his kindred have all perished, save only the children of the deceased daughter. But in place of kindred, hosts of friends surround the old man in his declining years; hundreds who have partaken of his hospitality in Valparaiso, San Francisco and Benicia, now take pleasure in extending acts of kindness to him. He settled in Benicia in 1849. Here he filled the position of Deputy Collector of Port for many years; and the records at Washington show that he was one of the most faithful and trustworthy officials ever in the employ of the Government. He has spent much of his time in building and ornamenting his beautiful home here, which has been



open to his many friends, and especially to the Army and Navy, for more than a quarter of a century; and notwithstanding his May of life is fallen into the sear and yellow leaf, that which should accompany old age, as honor, love, obedience, troops of friends he has. May the date of his decease long remain blank on his family tomb.

**WESTABY, RICHARD**, is a native of England, having been born in Hull, November 22, 1822, where he served an apprenticeship of seven years as ship carpenter. At the age of 20 he went to sea, and followed that occupation till 1850 when he arrived at San Francisco, and engaged in the same business, when he was burned out in the big fire, on June 22, 1851. He then took the mail steamer for Panama, returning to Benicia in August, 1851. In 1858 and 1859, he visited his native land, and the scenes of his childhood.

Mr. W. married Elmer Miles Raper, at Hull, November 22, 1846, who died at Benicia, February 22, 1876. Mr. W. has two children, Elmer and Margaret, both married.

## VACAVILLE.

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**AMMONS, HENRY B.**, born in Richmond, Madison county, Kentucky, in 1821, and in the year 1826, moved with his parents to Montgomery Co., Missouri, thence to Howard county, where his father died in 1846. He then moved to Clay, where he enlisted, 1846, in 1st Regular Mounted Volunteers, commanded by General A. W. Doniphan, Co. C, under Captain O. P. Moss, and with it took part in the Mexican war. With his regiment he went from the frontier to Santa Fe, thence to Chihuahua, Buena Vista and New Orleans, where he obtained his discharge in 1847. After his return home Mr. Ammons entered into mercantile pursuits, which he continued till 1849, when he came to California by way of the plains, arriving at Long's Bar, Butte county, in September of that year, where he embarked in merchandising. In 1852, he moved to Solano Co., Cal., where he set about stock raising. At the general election of 1853, Mr. Ammons was elected County Assessor, which office he held for two years, and then was appointed a Deputy Sheriff for two years following. He afterwards engaged in farming, until 1871, when he was made a Notary Public which office he now holds.

**BAKER, GEO. H.**, born April 9, 1852, in Vermont, where he was educated, and at the age of fifteen, emigrated with his parents to California, making the trip by water, landing at Sacramento June 4, 1867, and resided there one year, where his father followed farming. From there Mr. Baker went to San Francisco for two years, thence to Colusa Co., where he engaged in the trade of a carpenter, and settled in this county in the spring of 1875, still working at his trade. In the fall of this year he purchased a tract of land in Vaca Valley, containing twenty acres, and added fifty acres thereto in the spring of 1878, all of which is adapted to the raising of cereals and fruit. He married, December 16, 1877, Miss Luella Hawkins, who was born January 3, 1858, by whom he has one child, Duff G., born October 8, 1878.

**BASSFORD, H. A.**, was born June, 1854, in Benicia, Solano county, California, and in 1862 moved with parents to Napa, Napa county, but the family returned to Solano county, settling in Lagoon Valley, in June, 1869, where the subject of this sketch now resides on the old homestead. Married Miss Addie Lassell, of San Francisco, on September 5, 1876. She was born in October, 1857, in Smithfield, Maine. They have one child.

**BASSFORD, J. M.**, was born in Benicia, Solano county, June 25, 1852, which he left with his parents in 1858, and settled in Napa county. Moved with Mr. Bassford, Sr., into this county June, 1868, and located on what is known as the Sunny Dale Farm, three miles west of Vacaville, where he resided until September 5, 1876, when he took charge of the Barker Tract, known as the Cherry Glen Farm, containing 308 acres, where he now resides, and is engaged in raising fruit in great abundance. He married Miss Ida C. Barker, September 5, 1876. She was born in Napa county, Cal., Dec. 31, 1857, by whom he has one child, Lillie C., born June 13, 1878.

**BRINCK, H. W.**, was born September 20, 1844, in France, and there educated; emigrated to the United States in 1869, settling in New York City for three years, engaging in various occupations until the fall of 1873, when he came to this State, and stopped in San Francisco one year. The fall of 1874 he came to this county, with his brother William, and settled on the ranch they now own, consisting of 210 acres. Married November 20, 1877, Miss May E. Manning, a native of St. Louis, Mo. Henry Roy is their only child.

Mr. Brinck's brother, William Brinck, was born in Alsace, France, October 15, 1849, where he was educated. As is shown he came to this country with his brother in the fall of 1874, where he still resides.

**BUCK, L. W.**, was born July 8, 1834, in Trenton, Courtland county, N. Y. Was educated in Homer, N. Y., at Courtland Academy, and on September 10, 1856, married Anna M., daughter of Dr. M. B. Bellows, of Seneca Falls, N. Y. She was born September 23, 1834. Emigrated to Clinton, Iowa, in 1865, where he resided till the spring of 1874, at which time he came to California, locating in Vacaville, Solano county, in March of that year; and on October 1, 1874, he moved to his present farm, formerly known as the old Weldon rancho, consisting of 156 acres, in said township, where he has since permanently resided. In August, 1862, Mr. Buck was commissioned First Lieutenant of Company "H," 157th N. Y. V. I., but resigned in February, 1863, on account of ill health, returning to his home in New York State. His children are Emma L., Frank H., Nellie M., Fred M., and Anna M.

**CAMPBELL, ROBT. G.**, born November 3, 1814, in Kentucky. In 1831 moved with his parents to Missouri, where he learned the carpenter trade, and followed it and farming as a business until 1850, when he emigrated to California, and arrived at Hangtown, now Placerville, on August 20th of that year. At once proceeded to the Sacramento valley, on the American river, and was among the first who raised grain in that valley. He

farmed, teamed, and mined until 1854, when he came to Vaca valley, Solano county, and settled on the place now owned by Mr. Butcher, and farmed, in company with A. D. Starke, for one year, moving in the fall of 1855 to a place then known as Wolf place, about a fourth of a mile east of Vacaville, and in company with Dobbins and Starke put in grain for the sole purpose of providing hog-feed, thinking it more valuable for that purpose; from here moved upon another tract, a portion of the Barker grant, and soon after purchased the plot (squatter's title) of one hundred and sixty acres, and followed ranching from this time up till 1866, when he sold out his interest and turned his attention to carpentering, continuing this until 1869, when, in partnership with Starke, he went to Oregon and bought horses, bringing them to this State on speculation. This, however, not proving sufficiently lucrative he went back to his trade, working at it till 1872, when he entered into partnership with G. M. Gates, and dealt in live stock for about two years. Was appointed Road Master of Vacaville township in March, 1875, which office he still holds.

**CONNELLY, JAMES**, born March 15, 1828, in county Roscommon, Ireland.

At the age of twenty-two he emigrated to the United States, and made his home in Boston for about four years, where he carried on a farm. In June, 1855 he started for California, making the trip by water, and on arrival settled in Napa county and commenced farming. On November 2, 1856, he married Miss Margaret Fleming, of San Francisco, who was born in county Waterford, Ireland, March 24, 1834, and at once located in Pleasant valley, where he purchased a tract of land, which he disposed of after residing on it over six years. He next purchased fifty-six and one-quarter acres in the Gibson Cañon, about two miles north of Vacaville, where he cultivates fruit, etc. His only living child is Alice F., born July 4, 1866.

**CUMMONS, JOHN HARBERT**, born January 21, 1843, in Licking county,

Ohio, from whence he moved with his parents, at the age of four years, to Bates county, Missouri. In the Spring of 1857 started with his father for California, driving a band of cattle across the plains, and arrived at Stockton on November 18th of that year. From this place they proceeded to Calaveras county, and farmed until 1862, when he left for Aurora, Nevada, and here married, March 19, 1864, Miss Margaret Parry, who was born August 6, 1844, in South Wales, Great Britain. In 1865 moved to Colfax and built the first house in the town; thence to Truckee for two years, after which he proceeded to Alameda, where he put up the first turn-table on the coast, for the Central Pacific Railroad Company. Mr. C. now took up his residence in Vallejo. In 1873 he, however, moved to San Francisco, but in June, 1877, he returned to Solano county, and located at Vacaville. He has a family of six children.



**DAVIS, W. B.**, was born in Madison county, Kentucky, September 5, 1828, which he left with his parents in 1835, for Missouri. When in this State he commenced the occupation of farming, which he successively pursued in Caliway county for three years, and Macon county until 1850. In this year he left for the Rocky Mountains, and arrived at Green River, where he traded with the Indians and emigrants, as well as run a ferry over Green River. Here he remained five years, after which he came to California, where he has since resided. Mr. Davis married, in December, 1846, Miss Emeline Wells, by whom he has Francis A., born March 6, 1848; Clara P., born December 22, 1851; George W., born September 18, 1860; Eva, born July 28, 1863; and Jessie, born September 22, 1867.

**DAVIS, I. F.**, is a native of Canada, where he was born April 13, 1826. Here he was educated, and where he first engaged in farming, but during the latter part of the time he resided there he followed the lumber trade. In November, 1868, he moved to Norton, Essex county, Vermont, where he kept a hotel. Here he remained until August, 1873, when he sold his furniture, rented the hotel, and returned to Canada, but only remained there till December 10 of that year, when he left Montreal for California, arriving in Oakland, December of that year, where he settled for nearly four months, residing with his brother, E. S. Davis. From Oakland he came to this town, where he has been the proprietor of the Davis House. Married Miss Minerva, daughter of Nathaniel Green, of Canada. They have Emma F. and William H.

**DAY, M. D., EDWARD W.**, born in Baltimore county, Maryland, in 1831. His father, during the Rebellion, was a real estate agent and farmer, and at the time the advance-guard of Stewart's Cavalry made a raid through Baltimore county he had the "Stars and Stripes" floating from the flag-staff in front of his house. The rebels sought to pull it down, but were told by Mr. Day that if any one attempted so to do he would certainly be killed in the venture. They did it; and he shot one man and wounded another, and, finding it growing too warm for him, he effected his escape to Baltimore City, where he remained. On his departure the rebels burned his house and everything belonging to him. He was at the time seventy-five years of age, and died nine years later, when eighty-four. His son Edward, the subject of this sketch, in 1853, having passed through a course of medical studies, and graduated from the University of Maryland, left in that year for California, which he reached in May, and with his brother went to the mines about twelve miles from French Corral. Shortly after his brother sold out, and they both went to Rogue River Valley, Oregon, where they prosecuted mining at Jackson Creek and vicinity, but, the Indians becoming troublesome and committing great

depredations, the valley inhabitants were forced into hostilities, which eventuated in a treaty that was observed for only one short year, when the same tactics were again pursued by the aboriginals. At this juncture volunteers were called out by the Governor, and on their formation Doctor Day acted as Assistant Surgeon of the Southern Battalion of the Oregon Volunteers. They waged war with the Indians for eight or nine months, with the result of the enemy being dispersed. In the year 1858 he left Oregon, and in June came to Vacaville, where he now resides.

**DOWNEY, D. M.**, was born in Pietobury, Pennsylvania, September 23, 1838, where he followed farming until he emigrated to this State in October, 1858, locating at San Francisco; thence to Sacramento, and from there to Nevada, where he remained only one month, prospecting among the mines, then came to Solano county and settled in Vacaville, and located on a farm. In the Spring of 1865 made a trip to Oregon, but after two months returned and visited his native State, and was gone three months. With the exception of two visits he made in the East in 1876 and 1877, he has been a permanent resident of this county.

**DUTTON, DAVID DEWEY**, was born in Berkshire county, Mass., in the year 1816, April 4th, where his father was a farmer. In his boyhood he left home and went to Illinois and engaged in farming until the year 1839, when he crossed the plains to Oregon in company with D. G. Johnson, Charles Klein, Peter Lassen, J. Wright, William Wiggins and others, and there remained one winter, when they sailed for California in the vessel "Lausenne," and were three weeks in reaching Baker's Bay, a distance of only ninety miles. On the 3d of July the ship left the mouth of the Columbia River, and after being out thirteen days arrived at Bodega, a harbor then in possession of the Russians. Here a dilemma arose of quite a threatening character. The Mexican Commandant, General Vallejo, sent a squad of soldiers to prevent their landing; however, at this crisis the Russian Governor arrived and ordered them to leave, which they did. The subject of this sketch did not land, but started with the vessel to the Sandwich Islands, where he remained for one year, being employed in the American Consul's store. From there he next sailed to the Society Islands, staying at Otaheite for about six months, when he left for Valparaiso, in South America. Here he resided for six months and thence to Callao, then went to Pata, a port much frequented by whalers, and, after six months, took passage for Guayaquil in Columbia, South America. Six months after he returned to Valparaiso and there set sail for California, having entered into arrangements to construct a mill in that country for a Mr. Smith. He landed at Bodega, the very port from which he had previously sailed, and starting thence he paid his

way by work, after building the mill at port Bodega, until he gained Sutter's Fort—now Sacramento—where he was employed at his trade of a carpenter. From the Fort he removed to Butte county and commenced farming operations, which he continued for several years in that district, and in 1846 located in Solano county and engaged in stock raising and farming, the lands of which he eventually sold out, but still owns property in the southern part of the State. Mr. Dutton married February 19, 1856, Miss Martha J. Pearson, who was born in 1829, and has children born: Ellat Lovina, born September 1, 1857; Charles Dewey, born September 11, 1860; Wallace Newton, born October 8, 1863; David Willoughby, born August 20, 1866; Cora Belle, born September 7, 1869; Esther Maud, born September 27, 1872; Nina Martha, born April 5, 1876.

**ESQUIVEL, ANTONIO MARIA**, born September 10, 1826, in New Mexico and came to California August 10, 1854, working for wages until 1866, when he commenced the yearly purchase of land as mentioned below: In 1866, 320 acres; 1867, 90 acres; 1868, 680 acres; 1869, 120 acres; 1870, 280 acres; 1872, 1,000 acres; making a total of 2,490 acres, all adapted to grain growing, situated nine miles west of Dixon and five and one-half north of Vacaville. Mr. Esquivel resides on his property.

**EVERSOLE, HENRY**, born March 27, 1835, in Perry county, Ohio, where he assisted his father on the farm of the latter. On March 5, 1854, he left his home and came to California, arriving at Grizzly Flat, El Dorado county, on September 5th of that year, and remained there until August 15, 1858, following his trade of a carpenter, with mining, until he came to Vacaville, Solano county. He married, May 4, 1865, Miss Isabella Creighton, born September 26, 1845, in Davis county, Iowa, by whom he has Effa Jane, born November 15, 1866; Elton Mantz, born April 24, 1869; Mary Olive, born November 12, 1870; and Frank Creighton, born May 11, 1876.

**ELLIOTT, JAMES MONROE**, is a native of Harrison county, Kentucky, having been born there July 1, 1820. Removed with his parents, when fifteen years of age, to Washington county, Missouri, where he remained one year; thence to St. Louis county, Missouri, and remained until he was twenty-five. In 1846 returned to Washington county and married, March 5th of the above year, Miss Celia A. Paul. In the spring of 1849 he emigrated to California, crossing the plains with an ox team, in company with a brother and several neighbors, leaving behind his wife and two children. Arrived at Hangtown, now Placerville, on September 15, 1849, and followed mining until the end of January, 1850, when he embarked on the steamer "Panama," at San Francisco, for the Eastern



States; arrived home on March 20th, and on April 4th, following, started to re-cross the plains with his family and several friends. At Independence, Missouri, they were joined by several other gold seekers, making a train of about forty wagons. Here Mr. Elliott was appointed Captain of the train, as he had experience on the plains and was acquainted with the lay of the land. At Fort Hall the company became disorganized, having had a good deal of sickness from cholera and fever. It was, therefore, decided to turn their faces towards the Oregon line, as the direction they were then pursuing seemed to entail destruction to man and beast. Thus they moved northward and landed in Linn county, at the forks of the Santiam river, where he had one section of land donated to himself and his wife by the Government. On this tract they resided for seventeen years. In the fall of 1867 Mr. E. came to Solano county and farmed for one year; thence to Mendocino county for five years, making farming and stock raising his business. In 1874 he returned to this county and settled in Lagoon valley, purchasing the Scanlett ranch, containing 320 acres, and followed farming and stock raising until 1877, when he sold his property and moved to the town of Vacaville in order to give his children school advantages. Mr. Elliott has eight children, four boys and four girls: Erastus P., Amanda J., Mary E., Adelaide, Sophronia, Winfield S., James L., and William P.

**GETCHINS, WILLIAM W.**, was born in Green, Chenango county, New York, August 30, 1828. At the age of twelve he moved with his parents to Luzerne county, Pa., and in the year 1851 emigrated to Illinois. In the year 1850 he came to California and worked in the mines until 1861, then turned his attention to farming and different speculations in Shasta county. He next left for Oregon, where he once more followed mining, and in the year 1866 returned to Shasta and passed about two years there, when he proceeded to Siskiyou county, and, after four years there, settled in Vacaville, Solano county, November, 1875, where he is engaged in the saloon business.

**JOHNSON, W.** When but twenty-one years of age the subject of this sketch left his home in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, where he was born on December 15, 1837, and went to Black Hawk county, Iowa, and remained there for only a short time, removing to Leavenworth, Kansas, from which place he proceeded to Salt Lake City. From this point he joined a party who were on the point of leaving for Arizona, but hearing that the Indians were hostile they altered their course and made for San Bernardino, in Southern California, arriving there in the winter of 1857-58. Hence, Mr. Johnson proceeded to Los Angeles, and, obtaining employment with one Will Wolfskill for eighteen months, he next left



for Pleasants' valley, where he was occupied but for a short time, when he commenced farming on his own account. This he continued only for one year, when he returned to the employ of Mr. Pleasants, remaining with him three years, when he purchased the place on which he now resides, engaging in the pursuit of raising fruit and grain. He married Florence Powell, September 5, 1873, who was born July 28, 1853. He has one child, Benjamin, born July 8, 1875.

**KIDD, W. B. R.**, was born May 14, 1826, in Fentress county, Tennessee, where he was educated. Married Miss Jane Williams of Tennessee, in October, 1848, who died. In October, 1863, married Mrs. Jane Upchurch, and in 1870 left native State with family, and went to Clinton Co., Ky., where he followed farming and trading for two years. Emigrated to California July, 1871, and landed at Stockton, where he remained two years, when he returned to his native State, where he remained until June, 1874, when he returned to California, and settled in Stockton for a short time; and thence to Union Island, where he resided about one year. Came to this county in February, 1877, and settled in Lagoon valley, purchasing the old Scarlett ranch of J. M. Elliott, comprising 330 acres of land, where he now resides. Has a family of nine living children — four by first wife, and five by second, as follows: Mary E., born July 21, 1849; Elsie L., born June 4, 1850; Millie Ann, born Dec. 6, 1853; Margaret Jane, born Jan. 11, 1855; Laivery J., born July 27, 1864; Granville T., born Dec. 12, 1866; Johnny, born Nov. 26, 1871; William, born Nov. 26, 1875; Viola Jane, born May 26, 1878.

**KORNS, LEVI**, was born February 16, 1829, in Pennsylvania; and at the age of one year, moved with his parents to Holmes Co., Ohio, where he was educated. Emigrated to California, on January 5, and arrived at Sacramento February 27, 1852; thence to Marysville, where he remained one year farming; from here he went to Oregon; but after a stay of only nine months returned to this State, and engaged in farming at Yreka, where he also worked in the mines five years; and in the fall of 1858 visited his native State. In September, 1859, he came back to California and located in Vaca valley. Purchased his farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres, known as the "Bunker Hill" ranch, in 1870, on which he now resides. Mr. Korns married, August 21, 1878, Mrs. Hattie Thompson, of Fredonia, N. Y., who was born May 25, 1841.

**LONG, S. W.**, was born in Versailles, Kentucky, March 17, 1822; and when still young moved with his parents to Clay county, Missouri. In 1846 he enlisted and took part in the Mexican War, under Captain O. P. Moss, Col. Doniphan, and General Taylor, in Company C, 1st Regiment

Mounted Volunteers. In the following year was discharged; and returning home, he remained there until 1849, when he started across the plains for California, arriving at Sacramento on August 7, 1849, having performed the long journey in four months, and meeting with neither let nor hindrance on the way. Mr. Long passed one year at the mines at Long's Bar; and in March, 1850, he came to Vacaville, where he has since resided.

**MARSHALL, R. C.**, received his education at the Western Reserve College, at Hudson, Summit county, Ohio, and, after a term of three years, he taught school for six. In 1850, he emigrated to California and reached El Dorado county, where he engaged in placer and quartz mining. In 1855 he was joined by his family and settled in Grizzly Flat, where he resided until 1858, when he moved to Vacaville on a visit, but during his stay his residence at Grizzly Flat was consumed by fire; he, therefore, did not return thither but remained in the vicinity of Vacaville. Mr. Marshall was born in Weathersfield, Trumbull county, Ohio.

**MORTON, HENRY**, born in Genesee county, New York, January 4, 1839. Came to California, June, 1864, by sea and the Isthmus of Panama, landing in San Francisco, but soon after proceeded to Vacaville, where he is engaged in farming.

**PENA, DEMETRIO**, is, without doubt, one of the oldest settlers in the county; born in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1826, he accompanied his parents to California in 1840 and arrived in Los Angeles, where they remained one year, and, in 1841, came to Vacaville. His father, in company with Manuel Vaca, took up ten leagues of land in and around Vaca valley, including the site of the present town of Vacaville. In 1844, the subject of this sketch, in company with his father, moved on his present rancheria in Lagoon valley, comprising 800 acres. He married, in 1849, Miss Inez Berryessa, of Sonoma, by whom he had a family of twelve children, there being now alive: Neavis, David, Juan, Seto, Isabella and Frederica.

**PLEASANTS, WILLIAM J.**, born in Lincoln county, Kentucky, May 31, 1834. His parents went to Missouri in 1835 and followed farming until 1849, when they emigrated to California, arriving first at Bidwell's Bar, in 1849, and, in 1850, they moved to Pleasants' valley, Solano county. He married, December 3, 1857, Miss Nancy Hopper, by whom he has eight children, four sons and four daughters: Sarah Alice, born Nov. 11, 1858; Ansal Putnam, born Feb. 6, 1861; Emma Belle, born Mar. 18, 1863; Lydia Tolitha, born Feb. 28, 1865; Wm. James, Jr., born June 30, 1867; Laura Frances, born Dec. 16, 1869; Thomas Royal, born Aug. 5, 1872; Russel Mason, born Dec. 18, 1874.

**ROGERS, JAMES ROE**, was born in Kentucky, November 14, 1826, and, at the age of fourteen, moved with his parents to Missouri, where he remained until Spring of 1850, when he emigrated to California, making the trip across the plains with ox teams. He first settled in Sacramento, where he bought a hotel on the road leading from that city to Bear river, Grass valley and Nevada. This business he followed until early in 1857, when he left for Poor Man's, Nelson and Hopkins' creek, on Feather river, and from there to Middle Yuba, where he worked until the Fall, whence he proceeded to the southern mines. In the Spring of 1853, he paid a visit to the State of Missouri, once more crossing the plains in the Fall of the following year and located in Santa Rosa valley, Sonoma county, engaging in stock raising. In the Fall of that year he purchased a farm of five hundred acres in Elmira township, on which he now resides. Mr. Rogers married, first, in Sacramento, September 15, 1853, Miss Mary Ann Williams, she died June 4, 1865; and, secondly, January 14, 1866, Miss Laura C. Church, of Dixon, who was born June 15, 1844. His family consists of six children, four by his first and two by his second wife; their names are: Ann Eliza, born October 9, 1854, died January, 1857; Commodore Perry, born February 17, 1857; Seldon M., born April 26, 1859; Zilla N., born September 25, 1861; Celia May, born May 30, 1873; and Bertie Agnes, born January 16, 1876.

**SCARLETT, J. E.**, was born May 8, 1853, in Iowa, and at the age of seven years, moved with his parents to Oregon. In 1862, came to this county with his father, W. W. Scarlett, and settled in Suisun valley. In 1874, returned to Oregon and remained one year, when he returned to this State and county, and entered the Baptist College, at Vacaville, which institution he attended for three years. He then went to Los Angeles, where he engaged in the butchering business, for a short time; thence to Bakersfield, where he engaged in same business until 1879. On April 1st, 1879, he returned to this county and settled in Vacaville, buying out James Rogers, in the butchering business, and entered into partnership with Geo. F. Wooderson, where he still continues the business.

**SEAMAN, H.**, was born in Prussia, October 12, 1826. In 1837, emigrated to United States, and lived in Ohio until 1852, when he emigrated to California, crossing the plains, and landed at Sacramento in July of the above year, where he resided for seven years, running a hotel the major portion of the time. In January, 1859, came to this county, and settled upon the present farm he now owns, comprising 2,200 acres, in Putah canon, about four miles west of Winters. Married Miss Ellen Ryan, August, 1865. She was born in November, 1834, in county Limerick, Ireland. Has had one child, John Henry, who was born August 19, 1867, and died March, 1874.



**SMITH, W. W.**, born May 11, 1832, near Glasgow, Barren county, Kentucky, where he received his early education, and at the age of twenty moved to Abingdon, Illinois, where for five years he worked at the trade of cooper. Next entered the Abingdon College, but after two and a half years was obliged to relinquish his studies on account of sickness. In the spring of 1864 he emigrated to California, first settling in Napa city, June 1st, of that year, where, in the following fall, he purchased the farm known as the Spring Garden Nursery; he also bought the farm now owned by Henry Bassford, but continued to reside on that first named for ten years, with the exception of one year which he passed on that in Solano county. In the fall of 1873 he acquired the tract of land on which he now lives, which comprises one hundred and sixty-five acres, about one-half of which he has set out in fruit trees. He married, March 12, 1857, Miss Matilda C. Marshall, who was born in Knox county, Mo., by whom he has had three children, two of them, Genevra, and Rosa Ophelia are still living.

**STAHL, J.**, was born March 14, 1844, in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, on September 10, 1864; entered the army, Company G, 93d Pennsylvania Volunteers, was in the battles of Petersburg and Sailors' Run, and remained until the close of the war, 20th June, 1865, when he returned home to his native State. In August of the above year he went to Illinois, and worked at his trade (wheelwright) until the fall of 1866, when he returned to Pennsylvania, and remained but a short time. Emigrated to this State, making the trip by water, in 1866, landing in San Francisco on November 6th. He went directly to Amador county, and worked on a farm until spring opened, when he went to San Louis Obispo, at which place he remained but a short time. Came to this county June 16, 1867. In the fall of 1869 he returned to the place of his birth; thence to Illinois, where he spent the winter, and in the spring of 1870 went to Texas, remaining a short time; thence to Missouri; thence to Iowa, and in 1871 returned to California, and settled in Vacaville, this county, where he still resides and follows his trade.

**THISSELL, G. W.**, born April 25, 1829, in Morgan county, Ohio, where he was educated, and learned the trade of carriage-making, which he followed until he left his native State, March, 1849, when he started for California. He stopped in Mashaska county, Iowa, with his brother Ezra, until March, 1850, when he set out on his long trip across the plains with an ox-team, and landed at a town known at that time as Hangtown, and is now known as Placerville, October 16, 1850, where he followed mining until May, 1851, when he established a hotel, and in July was one of the parties who formed a company and commenced the second tunnel that was ever run in the State, after which he found very rich



diggings, taking out as high as \$125 to the pan. Followed mining, in connection with the hotel, until 6th of January, 1852, when he returned to native State, and from there to Iowa, when he married Miss Asberrene Chambers, May 8, 1851, who was born February 5, 1831, in Bartholomew county, Indiana. In March, 1853, again emigrated to this State, re-crossing the plains with ox-teams, and again settled in Hangtown, and followed same business as in 1850-1 until July, 1855, when he came to this county and settled in Suisun valley, and followed farming. In July, 1857, took up his abode in Pleasants' valley, settling upon the present tract of land upon which he now resides, comprising 165 acres, adapted to fruit-growing. Has 6,000 fruit trees, most of which are apricots; also 10,000 grape vines, all foreign varieties. Has a family of six children, as follows: Mary E., born June 6, 1852, on the loop fork of the Platte river; John N., born November 29, 1856; George W., born April 25, 1858; W. E., born July 4, 1861; Sarah E., born July 15, 1865; Minnie L., born, May 23, 1870.

**TROUTMAN, GEORGE W.**, born in Hardin county, Kentucky, March, 1836, where he received his education. At the age of eighteen went to Illinois, and until the spring of 1855 followed farming, when he emigrated to California, and settled in Sierra county, there working in the mines until August, 1861; he then came to this county and purchased a tract of land, between Vacaville and Elmira, which he worked till the spring of 1866, next moving to Vacaville, and from there on to property bought by him in Gibson Canon, where he resided from 1874 to 1876. He afterwards disposed of this tract and purchased an adjoining piece on the south, containing ninety-three acres, upon which he now has his residence. Married May 15, 1872, Miss Essie Gamble, who was born in Beloit, Rock county, Wis., in December, 1854, and has one child living, Susan Irean, born July 22, 1875.

**WOODERSON, G. F.**, born in Bangor, Maine, October 10, 1849. When fourteen years of age he left school and entered the Provost Marshal's office, under Captain Elijah Low, as clerk, remaining there until the close of the war, when the office was abolished in November, 1865. He then went into the employ of Ricker & Ireland, dealers in and importers of crockery, where he stayed until October, 1868, when falling into ill-health he went to the north of Vermont, sojourning there until July, 1875, when he came to California and settled in Vacaville, going into the employ of Gates & Long, butchers, until October, 1877, when he, in partnership with J. R. Rogers, bought out the firm, and have since carried on the business. Married Miss Susan B. Pease, August 1, 1872, at Coaticooke, Canada, who was born April 25, 1856. Had one infant, who died at the age of three years.

## MAINE PRAIRIE.

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**ELLIOT, GEORGE T.**, is a native of Genesee county, New York, and born October 12, 1834. His father died when he was but two years old, and at the age of eleven he was sent to reside with James Relya, in the pineries of Allegany county N. Y., who agreed to give him an education. Young Elliot was furnished with an abundance of work, but no schooling, which did not accord with his inordinate love for knowledge. For three years he was subjected to this treatment, but, during the time, managed to master Dayball's Arithmetic, by diligent application during his leisure moments, and after the toils of the day was over, and many times midnight found him at his studies. Returned to his native county—being only fourteen years old—engaged in farming during summers, and attending schools during the winter, and in 1854 graduated at the Warsaw Academy, in his native State. After traveling in Upper Canada, and all the Western States, finally settled near Rockford, Winnebago county, Ills., where he was engaged as clerk in a store, having full charge of the business, until he was obliged to seek other employment on account of over work and ill health. After regaining his health he taught school two terms. Moved to Cheshire county, New Hampshire, in 1855, taking charge of a wooden manufacturing establishment for one year. Married here Sarah L. Trowbridge, on March 12, 1856. She was born December 24, 1838, at Swanzey, Cheshire county, New Hampshire, and is a graduate of Mount Cæsar Seminary. Mr. Elliot moved near Watertown, Jefferson county, Wis., where he was appointed Deputy Sheriff, and in connection with the duties of his office, taught school in winters, also studied law. In 1859, went to Columbia county, Wis., where he farmed and taught school. After one year he returned to Cheshire county, N. H., taking charge of a blooded stock farm, remaining until April, 1861, when he emigrated to this State, making the trip by steamer, settling on the Wolfskill grant in this county. In June, 1864, he took a claim in Maine Prairie precinct, six miles from Maine Prairie, where he has since maintained a continuous residence, and engaged in farming and stock raising. Although he pre-empted only 160 acres, he now owns about 1200 acres of land. He has taken an active interest in the political affairs of the county, making his first speech at a primary election in old Washington Hall, at Silveyville, in 1863. In 1872, during the Greeley campaign, he lectured in several counties through the State, under the direction of the county committee. In 1876, addressed large audiences in the counties

down the coast for Hayes. Has lectured on temperance, and made speeches all through this county. Has been Deputy Grand W. C. T., and in that capacity lectured in many of the counties of the State, as well as before the district session of the Grand Lodge, in Yolo county, in 1877. Has practiced his law profession in Maine Prairie for the last three years. In every position which, in his eventful life, he has been called to fill, Mr. Elliot has been successful in the highest sense. He has left an untarnished record and unspotted reputation. As a business man he has been upright, reliable and honorable. In all places, and under all circumstances, he is loyal to truth, honor and right, justly valuing his own self-respect, and the deserved esteem of his fellow men, as infinitely more valuable than wealth, fame, or position. None excel him in unselfish devotion and unswerving fidelity to the worthy recipients of confidence and friendship.

Hattie Eleanor, born Aug. 12, 1857, George Albert, born June 15, 1860, died January 25, 1876, John F., born February 25, 1863, Chas. R., born Sept. 6, 1866, Joseph D., born May 20, 1870, and died July 10, 1870, and Harold E., born October 18, 1874, are his children.

**TUCK, J.**, born in York county, Maine, January 22, 1823. When about seven years of age he went with his parents to Niagara county, New York, where he lived about seven years. His parents then died and he went to Lawrence county, Michigan, where he made it his home, but was in Ohio a portion of the time until about eighteen years old. He then went to Illinois and farmed and run a threshing machine for five years. From here he went to Dodge county, Wisconsin, and farmed for about four years when he went to Appleton and engaged in grocery and lumber business until the fall of 1851, when he emigrated to California via Panama. In January, 1852, he settled on the Vaca grant, about two miles east of Vacaville, where he lived for about four years, and then settled on his present farm about two and a half miles south-east of Batavia. He married Ella Eugle August 21, 1869. She was born in Indiana, December 13, 1840. Frank E. and Geo. C. are their children.

## RIO VISTA.

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**BEGUHL, HENRY**, was born in the State of Mecklenburg, Germany, where he received his education. At the age of twenty-one he sailed in a German ship as carpenter, this being his trade, which he followed for three years. He left the ship in New York City and came to California in January, 1852, and stopped in San Francisco about six months, thence proceeding to Redwood City where he worked at his trade until 1855, then purchased a fourth interest of the sloop "Caroline," of which he was in command till 1859, when he sold his interest and left for San Francisco. Married February 6, 1859, Miss Amelia C. Jurgensen who was born in Holstein, Germany, July 26, 1836, and the day after, coming to Solano county, he settled on a quarter section where the Shiloh church now stands, but sold out in the following June and moved upon the ranch, containing 640 acres, where he now resides, four miles west of Rio Vista. When Mr. Beguhl first located there was only one house between him and Sacramento. He has owned real estate in the county since 1855. His living children are Lena A., born November 7, 1859; Mary E., born January 4, 1863; Johannah A., born October 29, 1865; Henry J., born August 19, 1867; John P., born November 1, 1869; Minnie M., born April 10, 1873 and Bertha C., born August 10, 1875.

**BROWN, D. B.**, was born in Exeter, Penobscot county, Maine, April 22, 1848. When six years old his parents moved to Wilmington, North Carolina, remaining there till the breaking out of the rebellion, when they emigrated to this State, settling at Oroville, Butte county, in the winter of 1862, where the subject of this sketch attended school. After clerking in a hotel at Marysville for some time he went to the mountains of Yuba county, working in a saw mill, afterwards engaged in mining one year or over, after which he went to San Francisco, attending Heald's Business College, graduating in 1867. He then followed clerking for a period of two years, a portion of this time being in the employ of the Merchants' Forwarding Line and Meeker, James & Co. of San Francisco. He then went to Benicia in the employ of J. G. Johnson, J. W. Jones and J. Hoyt; from here he went to Collinsville in employ of T. P. Hooper, where he remained for two years, and then went to Emmaton and stopped two years; thence to Antioch, clerking; then to Vallejo, and from there to Isleton, Sacramento county, and built a saloon which he conducted about one year and then took up his abode in Amador county and clerked in



store for some time, and then came back to Isleton, and from here to Rio Vista where he rented River View Hotel which he runs at the present time. Married September 18, 1878, Miss Sarah A. Pease, who was born September 26, 1852, in Columbia county, Wisconsin.

**BRUNING, JOSEPH**, was born in Vichtee, Grand Duchy, Oldenburg, July 18, 1822. When about twelve years old he went to the city of Amsterdam where he was employed as clerk in a general merchandise store for about six years, after which he followed the sea for twelve years. In 1850 he came to this country and landed in San Francisco and immediately went to the mines on Yuba river. He then went to San Francisco and engaged in the hotel business which he followed until 1858, when he came to this county and settled on the Los Ulpinos grant, the present site of Rio Vista, where he has resided ever since, carrying on farming on a large scale. Has also several large and commodious warehouses. Mr. Bruning married Miss Gertrude Blase April 25, 1855. She was born in Osnabrick, Germany, July 25, 1829.

**BUTLER, N. C.**, born in Tennessee, January 16, 1826. When about eighteen months old he moved with his parents to Morgan county, Illinois, where they lived for three years, and then moved to Warren county where they lived until 1839 when they emigrated to Iowa City, Iowa, where his father built the second house ever erected in that city. He died November, 1845. N. C. remained there until 1850 when he crossed the plains to California, arriving at Washington on the Yuba river September 26th of the same year, leaving his mother at Iowa City who is still living at the advanced age of 76. The subject of this sketch mined at Washington for about one month and then went to New Town where he mined until March of the next year. He then went to Bidwell's Bar on Feather river where he mined for about two months and then engaged in merchandising at Little Grass Valley for about three months. He then mined on the Alabama Bar on the Yuba river until September. He then mined for about one year at Sucker Flat. He came to this county in fall of 1852 and settled in Suisun valley, two miles west of Suisun, on 80 acres of land, where he farmed for one year. He then went on to the farm commonly know as the Lewis Winn place, situated in the upper end of Suisun valley, where he farmed for one year. He then bought 80 acres adjoining the first farm that he lived on when he first came to the county, where he farmed until 1856. He then bought 33 acres of R. H. Waterman about two miles north of Fairfield where he lived until the fall of 1859, when he moved to Fairfield where he made a business of training horses, and held the office of Constable for four years. In the fall of 1869 he moved upon the farm where he now lives, about eight miles north-west of Rio Vista. He owns and farms 320 acres of land.

Mr. Butler married Miss Paulina Barker in December, 1853. She was born in Estill county, Kentucky, April 18, 1825. Their children are Mary E., deceased, Arthur W., Henry W., Leathie J., Mary E., Lulu B. and John H.

**CARTER, ROBERT C.**, is a native of Reding, England, and born February 3, 1834, emigrating to America with his parents in 1841, the family taking up their residence in Brooklyn, New York, where the subject of this sketch was educated in the public schools of that city, and where he resided until March, 1852, when he came to California, remaining in San Francisco until 1859, when he came to old Rio Vista, in company with his father, Robert Carter, who had come to this State. They carried on a fish cannery, it being the first one operated on this coast. This business they followed until their buildings were swept away by the flood of 1862. The subject then moved to Rio Vista and conducted a small cannery business until 1865, when he opened a tin store. In 1875, he originated and carried out the plan for supplying his town with water from the river. Married, February 3, 1865, Miss Susan Davis, of New York City, and born May 13, 1838; have one child living, Robert D., born January 6, 1866.

**CURRIE, ALEXANDER**, was born October 30, 1844, in New Brunswick, where he was educated and followed farming; emigrated to California, settled in Solano county in October, 1868. He purchased at that time 160 acres of fine farming land, located seven miles west from Rio Vista. Although, when he came to this place there were no farms among the "hills," and all among these hills and down the valleys, as far as the eye could reach, wild oats grew in profusion, but now how changed! All around are well-kept farms, groves and fruit trees. Mr. Currie commenced life on this farm with one dollar in money, but now he has a beautiful home, showing what perseverance and determination will do. Mr. C.'s father and mother came with him to this country; his father, John Currie, was born May 17, 1792, and died January 3, 1875. His mother was born March 16, 1806, and died July 12, 1875.

**DOZIER, W. G.**, born in Georgetown, South Carolina, on May 5, 1833. Entered U. S. Naval Academy April 1, 1850; remained in the navy until latter part of December, 1860 passing through the various grades to lieutenant, when he resigned and returned to South Carolina on her seceding from the Union. Served in the naval branch of the State forces until turned over to the Southern Confederacy; remained in the C. S. navy until the close of the war, and surrendered at Appomattox C. H., Va. Held several commands during the war and served at various places from New Orleans to Richmond. Was married to Mary B. Atkinson, in

Georgetown, South Carolina, on December 22, 1859, and by her had five sons. This lady was born near Georgetown, South Carolina, in August 1835, and died and was buried there December, 1868. In 1869, Mr. D. moved to California and located in Rio Vista, this county. While acting as agent for the P. C. S. S. Co. at San Diego, California, he married Miss Louise M. Williams, daughter of Dr. John S. Williams of that place. They have two children, a daughter and son. He is now a member of the mercantile firm of Wilcox, Ruble & Dozier, at Rio Vista.

**EMIGH, T. P.**, born in Saratoga, New York, January 24, 1840, where he was educated and followed farming until 1862, when he emigrated to California, via Panama, arriving in San Francisco April 26, of same year, with \$7 00 in pocket and \$100 in debt. He immediately hired out to S. Daniels, in Alameda county, and worked at farming for eighteen months, after which he rented a farm at Lakeville, Sonoma county, which he conducted for one year. He then bought the milk route, at San Francisco, known as the "S. F. Dairy," which business he followed for two years. He then came to this county and settled on the ranch known as the Gardiner ranch, just north of Rio Vista, where he farmed for three years, the last year, however, he had charge of the Bruning warehouse. In the Fall of 1870, he took a flying trip to his native State, where he remained only one month. After his return, he went into partnership with Captain James Johnson, where they conducted the Bruning warehouse, in connection with the lumber business for two years, when they bought Perry's Landing, which is now known as New Town Landing, where they have three large warehouses and deal extensively in lumber. Mr. Emigh married Rachel Lawhead, September, 1869, a native of Ohio. Their children are William J., Nellie M., Milton, James P.

**FERGUSON, WM.**, born in Province, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 11, 1872, where he received his education, and learned the carriage maker's trade, which he followed until October, 1865, when he went to Massachusetts, and resided about one year. In 1866 he returned to Canada on a visit, and from here came to California, arriving in San Francisco Nov. 29, 1866, and from here to Mission San Jose, and followed his trade for about 8 months. He then returned to San Francisco, where he remained for a short time, and then came to this county, locating in fall of 1867, taking up his abode in Binghamton, where he resided for two years. He then went to Sacramento, where he remained about 5 months; thence to Rio Vista, in March, 1870, where he has resided ever since, with exception of one year, (part of 1870 and 1871), up to the present time. He carried on wagon-making and blacksmithing. Married August 19, 1874, Miss Mary Cook, of Rio Vista. She was born Aug. 15, 1853, in Province,



Canada. Have 2 children, Mary Edith, born June 1, 1876; William C., born July 19, 1877.

**FISCUS, JOHN B.**, is a native of Armstrong county, Pa., having been born there February 27, 1843. Until eighteen years of age he followed the pursuits to be found on a farm, when he essayed his fortunes in the oil regions, continuing there for two years. In 1862 he started for California, crossing the plains, but stopped in Nevada, from July 4, 1862, until March, 1865, where he had charge of a stock and hay ranch; then he proceeded to the Golden State, and settled in Solano county, in the town of Rio Vista, where he clerked in a hotel and post office until a year ago, since when he has kept a livery stable. Was appointed Deputy Sheriff of Solano county, in 1875, and, June 3, 1878, was appointed Constable for Rio Vista township, both of which offices he continues to hold. Mr. Fiscus married April 2, 1863, Miss Ida Squares, who was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., October, 1852, by whom he has one child, Chester S. born January 14, 1875.

**GARDINER, JOHN H.**, is a native of New Jersey, where he received a common school education, finishing with an academical course in Philadelphia. On leaving school he entered a dry goods store in that city, where he remained five years.

Upon becoming of age he received an engagement to take charge of a branch store of a large dry goods house doing business in Baltimore. During his connection with the house he resided at intervals in the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois and Maryland. Upon the receipt of the news of the discovery of gold in California, he, with a party of seven others, embarked for this State, leaving Baltimore in the latter part of December, 1848, in the schooner *Sovereign*, the vessel having on board a company of 125 passengers. The schooner landed at Porto Bello, at the mouth of the Chagres, the passengers ascending the river and thence by mules to Panama. There being no established communication with California the party chartered a vessel—the bark *John Ritson*, of Marysport, England—and sailed for San Francisco in February, arriving on the 18th day of May, 1849, after a tedious voyage, prolonged partly by the vessel being obliged to put into Acapulco for supplies of provisions and water. Remaining in San Francisco but a short time, he proceeded to Sacramento, and thence to the mines—then known as New Diggings, now the town of Auburn.

Notwithstanding the large pay at that time, Mr. Gardiner abandoned the mines and returned to San Francisco, for the purpose of engaging in mercantile affairs—his last day's work as a miner being rewarded by more than one hundred dollars worth of gold dust. The party of seven



members remained together, and engaged in merchandising, having three stores in operation in the city, erecting the first building that stood upon the south-west corner of Montgomery and Washington streets. The concern of Cooper & Co. prospered largely, and soon found themselves possessed of a large stock of goods, they doing a large wholesale trade. The great fires that laid waste the city in 1850 swept away all they had, and the party broke up. Getting together a stock of assorted merchandise Mr. Gardiner and another member of the old firm opened store at Santa Cruz, where he remained six months. Retiring again to San Francisco he continued in the mercantile business, in which occupation he continued until his removal to this county.

During the year 1867 he revisited the Eastern States, extending his trip to Europe, visiting Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, France, England, etc. After his return to the State he married, and soon thereafter moved to his present pleasant home on the bank of the Sacramento river, at Rio Vista.

In 1876 Mr. Gardiner and his wife visited the Eastern States, for the purpose of attending the Centennial Exhibition, and paying a last visit to his former home—attending the sessions of the National Agricultural Congress, as a delegate from California.

In the formation of society, in the early days of San Francisco, he was amongst the foremost, being one of the founders of the Mercantile Library, serving as Director and Secretary in the institution, and is a prominent member of the Society of California Pioneers, being, at the present time, Vice-President of the Society.

He has always taken an active part in all matters, both political and social, pertaining to the welfare of the country; and it can be truthfully said of the subject of this sketch, that he has always regarded toil as manly and ennobling; and after passing through an honorable yet checkered life, he is now enjoying the comforts of a happy home, beloved by his wife and friends, and respected by the citizens of the State in which he lives.

**GURNEE, JACOB**, was born in Rockland county, N. Y., June 16, 1820, where he was educated and lived until about fifteen years old, when he moved to Westchester county, where he was employed in a brickyard until 1840; he then went to Stratton Island, where he found employment on a schooner which run between the above place and New York City, where he was employed until 1850. He then took the steamer "W. J. Pease" for San Francisco, arriving Jan. 19, 1851, being nearly one year making the trip. After remaining in San Francisco about three months went to mining on the American river, where he remained six months, after which he followed boating on the San Francisco bay, until March, 1852. He then took passage on the steamer "Independence," for New

York City; but returned to California in about three months, and followed mining at Downieville for a short time; after which was engaged as pilot on the Sacramento river until 1862; then took charge of a large ocean steamer which was lying at anchor, for about seven years. In January, 1870, bought the "Eclipse" saloon at Rio Vista, which he still owns and has charge of at the present time. Married Miss Caroline Eddie in 1841, who died in 1849, leaving two children—William, and Harriet. Married his present wife, Miss Mary Ann Higgings, 28th day of February, of the year 1867.

**JOHNSON, CAPT. JAMES**, was born in Denmark, Aug. 26, 1836. At the age of twelve years commenced following the sea. At the age of fifteen years went to England, and shipped on a vessel bound for Melbourne, Australia. Paid the gold mines there a short visit. Left Australia on the ship "James T. Ford," bound for Callao, Peru, where he shipped and was employed as Quartermaster on the mail steamers plying between Valparaiso and Panama, for about six months, arriving in San Francisco, Sept. 1852. Followed the sea, with slight interruptions, until 1859, when he made a trip to his native country, returning after an absence of four months. Purchased a schooner shortly after his return, which he commanded, and continued in the coasting and inland trade until 1870, when he located at Rio Vista, and formed a partnership with T. P. Emigh, in the warehouse and lumber business. In 1872, bought their present place of business, Newtown Landing, formerly Perry's Landing. They employ in their grain and lumber business, two schooners—"St. James," and "Wonder," which were built and owned by Mr. Johnson before his partnership with Mr. Emigh. Mr. Johnson married Miss Catherina C. Lorentzen, February 6th, 1863, a native of Denmark. Their children are James, Frederick C., Otto J., Hannah C., William, Adeline C., Lena C., Katie, Selma.

**MENZIES, THOMAS**, was born in New Brunswick, June 13, 1832, where he received his education and followed farming. Married, January 4, 1855, Miss Margaret Currie, who was born January 4, 1834, in New Brunswick. Mr. Menzies came to California by water, in 1866, and settled in Petaluma, where he resided and worked on a farm for one year. Came to this county September 16, 1867, and purchased 160 acres of land, where he now resides, six miles west of Rio Vista and nine miles east of Denverton. He farms in all 320 acres. Has reared a family of twelve children, ten of whom are living: James, born January 17, 1856; John C., born June 17, 1857, and died January 9, 1872; William W., born July 5, 1859; Dora A., born November 1, 1861; Thomas, born November 8, 1863; Robert A., born April 2, 1866; David S., born June 4, 1868;

Eliza J., born March 21, 1870, and died December 31, 1871; Emma J. and Edward A. (twins), born October 23, 1872; Maggie E., born March 22, 1874; John B., born July 22, 1877.

**PIETRZYCKI, M. D., MARCEL**, was born April 25, 1843, in Galicia, a Polish province of Austria, where he was educated as an apothecary and chemist. Came to the United States in 1866. Took up his abode in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, where he studied medicine with Dr. Arnold part of 1866 and 1867. Emigrated to California in the Fall of 1867, and settled in San Francisco, receiving the appointment of an apothecary in the German Hospital, where he remained for five years, during part of which time he attended the Pacific Medical College, where he graduated in 1872. In 1873 went to Stockton to practice his profession, remaining there about five months. Came to this county in November of the same year, and settled in Rio Vista, where he now resides and practices medicine. Has always taken an active part in enterprises pertaining to the welfare of the town. Was twice elected School Trustee, also Clerk of the Board. Took a very active part, and in fact was one of the prime movers, in establishing the Montezuma Telegraph Line from Suisun to Rio Vista. He married, June 29, 1876, Miss Mary Warren, of San Mateo, daughter of Rev. J. H. Warren, Superintendent of the Home Missionary Society of the Congregational Church.

**POND, DAVID A.**, born in Carlton, Green county, Illinois, February 24, 1840, where he was educated and followed farming. Married Miss Matilda Ferguson, June 24, 1863. She was born February 27, 1845, in Carlton, Illinois. In October, 1873, the subject of this sketch emigrated to California and settled at Rio Vista, this county. Was employed as a butcher, by different firms, up to about two years ago, when he formed a partnership with James U. Chase, and carried on butchering, but on October 25, 1878, Mr. C. sold out, and the firm is now known as Pond & Knox, where they are doing business. Has had two children, but both are dead. Edward, born February 23, 1866, died July 27, 1868; Clara, born December 13, 1868, died May 31, 1874.

**SICKAL, M. T.**, born in Hancock county, Illinois, January 23, 1850, where he resided until April, 1858, when he set sail with his parents for California, via Panama. Arrived at San Francisco May 15th, same year. Came immediately to Benicia, where he remained but a short time, crossing the straits to Martinez, Contra Costa county, going to school most of the time until January, 1868, when he entered the State Normal School at San Francisco, where he remained five months, when he came to this county, and taught school near Dixon for four months. He then entered



a business college at San Francisco, remaining three months, when he again taught school, this time in Contra Costa county, for one year. He then entered the State Normal School again, where he remained for three months. He again taught school for five months, in Sutter county, when he once more returned to the State Normal School, where he remained until he graduated, March 15, 1871. He then returned to this county, and taught in Dixon for two years, being the first teacher to grade the Dixon school. He then taught the Los Angeles City Grammar School five months; then entered St. Augustine's Academy at Benicia, remaining but three months, when he went to French Corral, Nevada county, where he taught one year; then returning to Dixon, he taught the school there for five months, then taught the Silveyville school one year. He then settled in Rio Vista, where he has been continually engaged in teaching ever since. Mr. Sickal married Miss Mary A. Brane, July 3, 1878, who was born in Yuba county, June 9, 1858.

**SIDWELL, J. M.**, was born in Belmont county, Ohio, January 7, 1827. When about eleven years of age he moved with his parents to Fulton county, Illinois, where he finished his education and lived until 1850, when he went to Green Bay county, Wisconsin, where he followed lumbering and hunting for about two years. In the spring of 1852 emigrated to California, making the trip across the plains, with ox teams, in five months and sixteen days, arriving at Marysville, September 24, 1852, where he stopped one week, then went to Forbestown, on Feather river, where he mined until May, 1858, when he came to this county and worked on the Twin-house farm for five months. He then opened a store on Sleightman's farm, where G. H. Gardiner now lives, just above Rio Vista—the first store ever started in that neighborhood. He continued in the merchandise business there until May, 1854, when he moved on to Grand Island, Sacramento county, when he again opened a store and remained until the fall of 1857, acting at the same time as Postmaster of Georgiana post-office. He then sold his goods to A. G. Westgate and came back to this county and entered into partnership with Col. N. H. Davis—who owned, at that time, the land where old Rio Vista was built—and built the town called Brazos Delrio, afterwards changed to Rio Vista. The post-office was then moved to Brazos Delrio, and Mr. Sidwell retained the office till 1859, when in that year the name of the town was changed to Rio Vista, also post-office, and was contractor on the levees until 1862. The town was then flooded out and washed away. Mr. Sidwell, then in company with S. R. Perry, W. K. Squires, and Isaac Dunham, contracted with Mr. J. Bruning for the right to build the present town of Rio Vista. Mr. Sidwell built the first hotel in this town, which he conducted for some time. He then commenced contract-



ing again, building levees, flood gates, etc., which he has followed ever since. Mr. Sidwell married Miss Annie Elliott, May 14, 1864. She was born in Termanah county, Ireland. Names of children; John R., Sarah E., Mary L.

**SMYTH, HON. MICHAEL**, is a native of Ottawa, Canada, where he was born October 4, 1832. Here he was educated and worked on a farm and at lumbering, until about twenty years old, when he emigrated to California, via the Nicaragua route, arriving in San Francisco December 20, 1853. He at once settled in Crescent City, Del Norte county, and thence to Silver Diggings, residing in the latter place about two months, when he returned to Crescent City, settling on a farm, on which he remained till November, 1862, when he went to Idaho, Idaho county. After two years in this place he settled in Ada county, and kept hotel, as well as farming and merchandising. He was elected to the Lower House of the Legislature of that Territory one term, serving his constituents in a way that reflected credit and honor to himself as well as them. He was afterwards elected School Superintendent, but his own business demanded his attention, and he was forced to decline serving. The winter of 1867 he spent in Albany, Oregon, and the following spring purchased three hundred cattle and came to this State, adding two hundred more to the band on the road. Having brought the cattle to Solano county, and sold them, he settled near Dixon, but after three months moved on a farm at Poland's Landing, where he remained one year, and then bought a ranch about nine miles west from Rio Vista, but in 1873 he sold out and permanently settled in that place. In 1875 Mr. Smyth was appointed Notary Public, which office he still continues to hold. Married Miss Maria Killo-ran, in November, 1852. She was born in Ireland and came to this country when twelve years old. James L., Charles, George W., Robert C., and Frank H., are their living children. Lost three; Edward, Mark, and John.

**SQUIRES, WILLIAM K.**, was born in West Cornwall, Litchfield, Conn., December 18, 1817, where he received his education and lived until about 21 years of age. He then went to Brooklyn, New York, where he worked at the carpenter's trade for some time, and then acted as detective, constable and sheriff for about seven years. In January, 1848, he married Miss Margaret J. Brandow, who was born in Catskill, N. Y., July 13, 1824. In 1852, he left his wife and daughter, Ida I., in New York, and emigrated to California, via Panama. He mined on the Cosumnes river, in Sacramento county, for about one year, when he went to Sacramento city and followed fishing for three years, at the expiration of which time he made a trip to New York, and returned with his wife and

daughter by water; spent one year on the Isthmus, as foreman of Panama car shops, after which he settled in Sacramento and engaged in the fish trade until 1857. At the time of the Frasier river excitement he repaired to this place, and was engaged as a ship carpenter for about one year at Fort Langley. He then made a contract with the Hudson Bay Fur Company to furnish them salmon for six months, and with assistance of two men, would frequently furnish, at forty dollars per ton, as high as twelve tons a day. Mr. Squires, Russion and Thompson were the first parties who fished a gill net in Frasier river. After completing his contract he came to this county, and settled in old Rio Vista, where he built a hotel in 1859, it being the first public house erected in the place. He remained here until the flood of '62, when he came to new Rio Vista, and built the house he now keeps. In 1870, he leased his hotel and moved to San Francisco, where he resided for three years. when he returned, and has had charge of the house ever since. He was Deputy Sheriff of Yolo county, in 1857. In 1863, he was appointed Post-master of Rio Vista, which position he held for over six years.

**STOLL, CHARLES M.**, was born in Bavaria, Germany, October 21, 1849, where he received his education. Left his native State in 1866, and emigrated to California, visiting all the prominent places on his trip, and landed at San Francisco December 4, 1866, and from here he went to Sacramento, where he remained until 1868, when he went to Marysville, thence to Red Bluff, and worked at his trade, harness-making. In January, 1869, went to Sacramento county; from here to White Pine, where he remained until May 1, 1869, when he visited Virginia City; thence back to Sacramento, and from there to Rio Vista, where he opened a harness shop on the 12th of May, 1869, where he still resides and carries on his business. Married, October 8, 1871, Miss Ellen Bowman; she was born April 17, 1853, Augusta, Maine. Has reared a family of three children, two of whom are living: Frederick Chas., born May 29, 1872; Ida, born June 31, 1874; Minnie, born January 14, 1878, and died June 22, 1878.

## ELMIRA.

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**BARRETT, J. H.**, the County Recorder, was born in Morris county, N. Y., June 12, 1836. His parents moved to Lake county Illinois, in 1845, where the subject of this memoir was educated in the public schools. In 1853 he emigrated to this State, first settling in Downieville, where he was engaged in mining until 1862, when he was appointed Internal Revenue Assessor. October, 1867, he came to Elmira, this county, and has maintained a continued residence in that place. When his township was first organized he was elected Justice of the Peace, and has been re-elected at the expiration of his office to the present time. Was appointed County Recorder May 6, 1878. Married Alice E. Bushnell, daughter of George Bushnell, a native of Herkimer county, N. Y. Their only child is Edith May.

**MARCH, RUDOLPH BUCKHART**, born September 18, 1822, in Howard county, Missouri. April 16, 1857, he came to California, crossing the plains, and settled in Napa county, and there farmed until the spring of 1862, and then came to this county, taking up a quarter section, and purchasing soon after a like quantity, making a total of 320 acres, situated about four miles south-east of Elmira. In the fall of 1877, sold out his ranch and moved to Elmira town, where he has since been engaged in the livery business. Mr. March married, May 21, 1844, Miss Rachel Bradley, a native of Howard county, Missouri, who was born October 17, 1829, and has thirteen children, viz.: Dudley, born December 23, 1844; Crecy Ann, born August 28, 1845; William F., born May 3, 1849; Richmond, born May 8, 1851; Savannah Elizabeth, born August 15, and died September, 1853; Alfred, born August 23, 1855; Mary Jane, born August 21, 1857; H. Thomas, born October 18, 1859; Alice, born November 5, 1861; Angeline, born July 11, 1863; Silas R., born June 10, 1866; Walter R., born May 3, 1868, died February 13, 1869; Joseph, born December 28, 1869, died January 9, 1870.

**MELBOURN, THOMAS**, native of Boston, Linkinshire, England, born June 20, 1829, where he was educated. Emigrated to United States, at the age of twenty-two years. He first took up his abode in Mt. Morris, New York, where he remained for some time. After visiting several other places in the State, working most of the time at farming, he finally settled in Rochester, N. Y., where he married, October 10, 1855, Miss

Susan Dudley. She was born in the city of London, March, 1837. Mr. W. and wife emigrated to this State in 1859, arriving in Suisun, this county, on November 30th, of the above year. On December 1st, the next day after his arrival, he was employed by Jackson & Combs, in the warehouse known now as the Pierce warehouse; and from here he worked at farming and various occupations until about four years ago, when he, in company with Mr. Vest, purchased a tract of land known as the "Mile Square," about seven miles north-east of Suisun, upon which he now resides. Mr. M. is an extensive farmer, and is one of Solano's solid men.

**McMURTRY, JOSEPH**, born December 22, 1836, in Calloway county, Missouri, where he was educated. In the spring of 1853 he emigrated to California, crossing the plains with his two uncles, William and Calvin McMurry. The subject of this sketch, having parted company with his relations, arrived in Sierra county, August 20, 1853, and worked in the mines, and filled the position of a clerk in a general store until the fall of 1858, when he paid a visit to his native State, but returned in the following spring to Sierra county, where he started the express business, between Downieville and Minnesota, in the above county, combining with it the duties of mail and paper carrier, which he followed for two years. In March, 1862, he came to Solano county, and settled on a ranch near Elmira, where he remained until September 1, 1868, when he moved to the farm he now occupies and owns, comprising five hundred and forty acres of land. Married, April 16, 1861, Miss Anna Barrett, in Centreville, Suisun, who was born June 15, 1842, in Newark, N. J., and has a family of eight living children, and one dead, namely: Joseph B., born January 8, 1862, died June 3, 1869; James T., born September 5, 1863; Anna S., born January 29, 1865; George C., born August 25, 1867; Louie L., born August 25, 1869; Frank, born May 31, 1871; Clara, born November 10, 1872; Gracie, born October 14, 1874; Eugene, born November 5, 1876.

**WELLS, J. C.**, born in Tyler county, West Virginia, November 15, 1819. At the age of twelve years moved with his parents to Monroe county, Ohio, where he received his education. He resided here until 1855, and in April of the above year moved to Linn county, Iowa, and followed farming until 1864, when he emigrated to California, crossing the plains with a horse team, and landed in Vacaville August 15th of the same year, and settled on the plains southwest of Elmira, where he resided for two years. He then purchased a farm near Dixon, where he resided for one year; he then located on his present farm, one mile west of Elmira, comprising 160 acres. April 26, 1873, Mr. Wells and son Bazzleel took a



trip to Ohio, and returned in about six weeks, since which time he has resided upon his ranch. Married March 4, 1852, Miss Accia Wells. She was born October 1, 1833, in Tyler county, West Virginia. Eliza J., Charles T. (deceased), Temperance V., Bazzleel, and Florence B. are the names of their children.

Wait not till my hands are at rest  
 Ere you fill them full of flowers ;  
 Wait not for the crowning tube rose  
 To make sweet the last sad hours.

Wait not till my eyes are closed  
 For the loving look and phrase,  
 But while you gently chide my faults  
 The good deeds kindly praise.

The words you would speak beside my bier  
 Fall sweeter far on the living ear ;  
 O fill my life with sweetness,  
 Ere I should die to-night!

**WIGHT, F. M.**, was born near Bloomfield, Davis county, Iowa, on March 2, 1850. In August, 1862, moved near Kirksville, Adair county, Mo., a city of several thousand inhabitants, which was nearly destroyed in an engagement between the armies, which numbered about five thousand soldiers, during the late Rebellion. During the spring and summer of 1862, there were several skirmishes between the Union troops and the bush-whackers, in and around this city. At the above place he was educated and from which he removed to California in 1870, settling on his present estate of 160 acres, in Elmira township, Solano county. Here his father, E. R. Wight, died August 26, 1873, since which time the subject of this sketch has been manager of the homestead rancho.

## DENVERTON.

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**ARNOLD, OSCAR D.**, was born in Ripley county, Indiana, September 3, 1837. When about two years old he, with his parents, moved to Stark county, Ill., where he received his primary education. In 1853 emigrated to California, via Nicaragua route, and arrived in San Francisco on May 22d following. He went direct to Shaw's Flat, Tuolumne county; stayed three months with his father in a store which he had opened there. In October of that year his father sold out, and the family came to Solano county, settling in the Montezuma hills. In 1859 Oscar entered the Ulattis Academy at Vacaville and remained one year, after which he followed threshing and horse-breeding for one year. In the fall of 1861 he rented his father's farm till May, 1864, when he went to Nevada, with 2,000 head of sheep, which he sold, and then returned to his father's farm in 1865. Was foreman of the place until the fall of 1869. In August, 1870, moved on the Harmon rancho, where he lived until 1871, then bought his father's rancho of 900 acres of land, which is situated about three and one-half miles from Denverton, where he has since lived. Married Miss Emily Wein, July 12, 1870. She was born in Iowa City, Iowa, January 7, 1850. Ora A., Eugene L., Alma P., and Oscar D., are the names of their children.

**BARKWAY, R. H.**, was born in Suffolk county, England, Sept. 24, 1832, where he resided twelve years, when he came with his parents to Michigan, and attended school, and farmed. In 1853 he emigrated to California, arriving in San Francisco in December of that year, and settled in Santa Clara county, taking charge of a ranch for C. J. Collins, for a term of four years; after which he bought one hundred and five acres of land in that county, on which he made valuable improvements. Here he lived for seven years, when he lost the entire farm, it being in one of the Spanish grants. He then came to Solano county, settling on a farm at Binghamton, where he resided for five years; thence to his present place about eight miles west of Rio Vista. While Mr. Barkway was in Santa Clara county, he attended a University at North Santa Clara four terms. He is a licensed preacher, and has been engaged in pastoral work for the last twenty-five years. Married Mary E. Weaver, by whom he has Annie, Edward K., Fannie F., Hattie M., (deceased) and Abbie E.

**BUCKLEY, TIMOTHY**, a native of Cork county, Ireland, was born Dec. 10, 1832, where he received his education and worked at farming until

April, 1854, when he emigrated to the United States, settling on a farm about three miles from Boston, Massachusetts; came to California, via Panama, in 1861, arriving in San Francisco on November 6th, of that year, where he was employed as a laborer until June, 1866, when he came to this county, settling in Denverton township, on 160 acres of land he purchased at that time, situated seven miles west of Rio Vista. He married Miss Bridget Lane in July, 1864; she was born in Cary county, April 14, 1829.

**FOTHERINGHAM, JOHN**, born in Saline, Fifeshire, Scotland, July 24, 1822, where he received his education, and learned the trade of pattern-maker, in a foundry, which he followed until the spring of 1851. Married Miss Elizabeth Drysdale, April 5, 1851. She was born July 17, 1828, in Alva, Stirlingshire, Scotland. He emigrated April 7, 1851, the second day after marrying, for America, and went to Boston, where he resided for eighteen months, when he came to California, his young wife returning to her native country. He stopped in San Francisco for two years, and followed his trade, and then returned to Scotland for his wife, believing that California was the place for him to reside the remainder of his life. He returned with his wife August 14, 1857, and took up his residence in San Francisco, where he remained until July, 1867, when he came to this county and purchased 320 acres of land, where he now resides, eight miles north-west of Rio Vista, and seven miles south-east of Denverton. Has four children living, as follows: James, born May 25, 1852; Mary, born Dec. 23, 1857; Nettie, born March 12, 1865; Elizabeth, born Nov. 27, 1870.

**KERBY, CLINTON**, was born in Green county, East Tennessee, June 8, 1826. His parents moved to Jackson county, Missouri, where Mr. Kerby was educated. In 1850 he emigrated to California, crossing the plains, arriving in Sacramento, September 22d, of that year; went to Drytown, in Amador county, and kept a hotel about three months. He afterwards opened a hotel in Ione valley, which he conducted until December 5, 1851, when he returned to the East via Panama. May, 1852, he again crossed the plains to this State, bringing 350 head of cattle, and arrived in Sacramento the following September. He kept his cattle in Sacramento county until the fall of 1855, when he took them to Sonoma county, and, after two years, brought them to this county. In the fall of 1858 he bought 1,700 acres of land, situated about four miles south from Denverton, where he now resides. On April 15, 1873, he married Miss Emily A. Johnson, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, July 20, 1843. Their children are Clinton and James H., who were born in Sacramento, California: Clinton, August 15, 1877; James H., December 30, 1878.

**NURSE, S. K.** This prominent citizen of Solano county was born in Monroe county, New York, February 12, 1820, in which place he received his early education, residing there until 1839 when he moved to Oakland county, Michigan, and for one winter taught school there. In the spring of 1840 he returned to his native county and in the following winter again taught school in the district where he had been educated. In the following spring he left for Ohio and then commenced the hard work of his life: for a portion of the year toiling at a threshing machine, and in others varying it by school teaching. In 1842, in spring, Mr. Nurse proceeded to Rochester, New York, and there commenced the study of medicine and dentistry which he prosecuted till that fall when he took the field as a dentist, traveling as such until the autumn of 1845, when he attended a course of medical lectures at Cleveland, Ohio. Once more we find Mr. Nurse as a traveling dentist, and in 1847 he entered a telegraph office at St. Louis, Missouri. In the May following he removed to Springfield, Illinois, being employed in the office as a telegraph operator, where he continued until December 31, 1848, when he sailed by way of Panama to California, arriving in San Francisco on May 19, 1849. His first summer in the Golden State Dr. Nurse passed in the mines, then in company with L. B. Mizner of Benicia, run a stage some two months from that place to Sacramento when the steamer "Senator" arrived, which closed that business. Late in the fall he went to San Jose, Santa Clara county; in the following spring he departed for the southern mines; and in May, 1850, he came to Benicia, Solano county, where he resided but a short time, sailing thence for South America, in which country he remained one year being engaged in railroad surveying. On January 6, 1852, he once more arrived in Benicia where he lived until the month of May, 1853, when he settled in Denverton, then a portion of Montezuma township, and built the first house erected there, it being, in size, twelve feet square. Since those days times have greatly changed. Mr. Nurse now possesses a large warehouse and store on the grounds where he located in 1853. He has handed his name to posterity in the well-known "Nurse's Landing," a point of export of grain; while in 1855 he was elected on the first Board of Supervisors which sat for the county. He has occupied the position of Postmaster at Denverton for the last one and twenty years; is a member of the Masonic Order and was a member and Master of Benicia Lodge, No. 5, one of the oldest in the State; while he has held the office of High Priest to the Solano Chapter, No. 43.

Mr. Nurse has once, in 1852, paid a visit to his native State of New York, remaining there, however, but four months. He married December 2, 1863, Mrs. D. A. Nurse, who was born in Monroe county, New York, June 5, 1830; she being a widow of D. A. Nurse—a brother of the subject of this sketch—who resided here as early as 1853. The circumstances



of his death are not out of place here. Mr. Nurse and wife were on their way east to make a visit. They sailed from San Francisco on the steamer "Golden Gate," accompanied by Miss Katie Cogswell, a sister of Mrs. Hollister, formerly of Suisun township. The steamer started out well laden with human freight, and was considered one of the best on the line. When she arrived near Manzanillo, on the coast of Mexico, on July 16, 1862, she burned to the water edge, and nearly all the passengers were lost, and among the number was D. A. Nurse and Miss Cogswell. Mrs. Nurse was rescued after being three hours in the water. She took the next steamer for San Francisco, arriving there without accident. The following year she was married to Dr. S. K. Nurse as above stated.

**PREVOST, L.**, the subject of this sketch was born in Belgium, September 6, 1827, and here was educated and raised as a farmer. In 1850 he engaged in the grain trade on his own account, successfully following it until 1853, when he emigrated to California, locating in Alameda county; thence in 1858 to Contra Costa county; thence to Sonoma county in 1866; coming to this county, settling in Denverton township and buying four hundred and eighty acres of land one-half mile west of where he now lives. The place is now owned by Prevost & Girard, and is situated five miles east of Denverton and eight miles north-west of Rio Vista. Mr. Prevost has followed farming continuously since arriving in California.

## MONTEZUMA.

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**ARNOLD, JAMES W.**, born in Stark county, Ill., May 29, 1844, where he resided until May, 1853, when he emigrated to California, with his parents, via Nicaragua. He went to Tuolumne county, where he remained but a short time, and then came to this county, November, 1853, and attended common schools until 1863, when he entered the University of the Pacific, at Santa Clara, which he attended for two years. He then enlisted in the Mexican War, under General Oehsa, serving under him during one summer. He then taught school in Nevada county during the summer of 1866, and returned to this county and located on a quarter-section in Rio Vista township, where he lived one year. He then prospected through Los Angeles county, looking for a place to locate. In the fall of 1868 he returned to this county, and married Miss Mary J. Hargrave, January 15, 1869. He then spent about four months in Santa Clara county, and then returned to this county, bought a band of sheep and drove them to Merced county, where he remained until April, 1877. He then returned to this county, and remained in the same business, until the spring of 1878, when he settled at Bird's Landing, and engaged in the meat business, where he now resides. Is Justice of the Peace of Montezuma township. John D., William O., James P., and Gloria E. are his living children.

**BIRD, JOHN**, was born in Onondaga county, New York, September 8, 1837, where he was educated and lived until the fall of 1859, when he emigrated to California, via Panama, arriving at San Francisco October 29. After spending about two months in Santa Rosa, he went to Marin county, where he was employed about three years as foreman on a farm. In August, 1862, he went to Sacramento county, where he had charge of a dairy and stock farm until 1865, when he came to this county and purchased about 1000 acres of land and started a shipping point, storage and commission business; a portion of which took in the present site of Bird's Landing. He has resided here ever since. During the year 1876, he held the office of Justice of the Peace of Montezuma township. Married Miss Emily J. Hargrave, May 6, 1869; she was born in Wayne county, Illinois, June 5, 1847. Henry, born January 25, 1870; Walter, born November 11, 1871; Albert S., born October 12, 1873; John, Jr., born March 10, 1878, are their living children.

**BOND, J. C.**, born in Suffolk county, New York, October 23, 1846, where he received his education and learned the ship-carpenter's trade, which occupation he followed until about twenty years of age, when he emigrated to California; crossing the plains by rail and arriving at San

Francisco in October. He farmed in Alameda county for one year and in Sacramento county for about sixteen months, and in the Spring of 1872, settled in Montezuma township, this county, where he has since lived, his principal business being farming. He has been appointed once and elected twice to the office of Constable. In 1877, he was appointed Deputy Sheriff, by J. E. Williston, which office he has held ever since. Mr. Bond married Miss Julia E. Baldwin, November 25, 1866, daughter of Edward Baldwin, of Suffolk county, New York.

**DONELL, WILLIAM**, was born in Ireland, July 2, 1834, where he received his education and lived until about eighteen years old, when he emigrated to Pennsylvania, where he worked on a farm and in Linsey's Rolling Mills for about eighteen months, when he went to Iowa, where he followed farming for about six years. April 28, 1862, he started, in company with eight other men, for Carson City, Nevada, but on their way they changed their minds and went to Idaho, arrived at Elk City, Idaho, in July. After mining there for about three months, he went to Portland, Oregon; from there he went to Port Gamble, Washington Territory, where he remained until April, 1863, when he came to California and worked in Yuba county on a farm for a short time, and then came to this county in May, 1863. He worked at different places in Suisun valley and Montezuma hills until 1874, when he settled on the farm where he now lives, consisting of 320 acres, and located about two miles north-west from Bird's Landing. Mr. Donell married, September 19, 1872, Miss Addie E. Galbrieth, daughter of James Galbrieth. William H., Addie H., Ettie S. and Ida M., are their children.

**HOOPER, THOMAS T.**, born in Salem, Mass., Dec. 26, 1811, where he was educated, and learned the carpenter's trade, and worked at the same until 1849, when he emigrated to this State, leaving Boston, Nov. 30, 1849, sailing in the ship "Nester;" rounding Cape Horn, arrived in San Francisco June 6, 1850; coming direct to Benicia, working at his trade until October of that year, when he went to Fort Van Cover, Oregon, where he was employed by the Government for six months. He went to San Francisco; worked until August, '51; then went East, and returned to Benicia, May, '52; then kept hotel in Benicia one year; then went to San Francisco, as clerk in Post-office, one year; returning to Benicia in the fall of 1854, when he was appointed Postmaster, and held said office eight years, when he came to his present farm, consisting of 1,000 acres, located in this township, and situated about three-fourths of a mile north-west from Bird's Landing, there being only a few settlers in the township at that time. Married Lavina D. Proctor, July 20, 1837. She died July 28, 1863. Thomas P., and George—died August 27, 1848—are the children by this marriage. He again married, Augusta M. Foster, December 27, 1868.

**HOSKING, WILLIAM**, a native of England, born in 1835, arrived in California in 1858; mined in Sierra county till 1862; and from here went to Virginia City, Nevada, and engaged in mining and stock dealing till 1870, when he returned to California; bought the wharf, store and hotel at Collinsville, where he is at present engaged in business. Married in Virginia City in 1868, Miss Elizabeth Gordon, Rev. Mr. Wicks, of the M. E. Church, officiating. Have one daughter — Mary Jane Elizabeth — born April 7, 1871.

**MEINS, ROBERT**, was born in Delaware county, New York, January 20, 1837, where he was educated and raised a farmer. He immigrated to California, leaving January 20, 1860, coming via Panama, arriving in San Francisco, February 19th, of that year. He only remained in the city a few days when he went to Sacramento; then he came to this county, and we date his residence here in April, 1860. He was first employed on a ranch as foreman, which position he retained two years, after which he was employed by Dr. S. K. Nurse in a general store at Denverton, remaining three years. Married Miss Elizabeth A. Spencer, November 20, 1865, who was born in Lincoln county, Ohio, May 4, 1842. She died August 20, 1876. Mr. R. Meins came to his present farm, containing 136 acres, after marriage, said farm being located on Montezuma slough, two miles north-west of Bird's Landing. He has erected a large, commodious warehouse, capable of holding 1,200 tons of hay and the same amount of grain. Carrie J., born June 17, 1867; Ida, born December 17, 1872, are the names and births of his children.

**PAGE, W.**, was born in England, May 7, 1830. At the age of fifteen he came to the United States, and lived in Oneida county, New York, as a dairyman until March 7, 1859, when he started for California, crossing the plains with an ox team, and followed the business of farming in this county up to March 15, 1877, when he engaged in business in Collinsville and follows it up to the present time. He married Mrs. Alice Helstrup, (widow of E. Helstrup) December 25, 1876. She was born in Boston, August 24, 1851. She having two children by her first husband, one daughter, named Edith, born August 21, 1871, and one son, named Chester S., born June 5, 1873; also two children by the second marriage, Mary Page, born July 23, 1877, and W. Page, born May 1, 1879.

**UPHAM, E. J.**, was born in Kennebec, Maine, November 26, 1836, where he was educated and resided till 1854, when he emigrated to California by way of the Nicaragua route, arriving in San Francisco, October 1st of that year. Went direct to what is now Del Norte county, where he engaged in farming, as well as lumbering, until 1861, when he came to



Solano county, settling on the ranch he now owns, consisting of 160 acres, and has added certain amounts from time to time until he now owns 6,000 acres. He has been a large stock raiser, but for the past three years has turned his attention to grain raising.

**WINTER, H. E.**, was born in Stark county, Ohio, on January 27, 1832. Here he received his education. When seventeen years old he emigrated to Elkheart county, Indiana, where he remained one winter, thence to St. Joseph county. Here he apprenticed himself to a shoemaker for three years, then went to Goshen, county seat of Elkheart county, Indiana, following his trade. Four years thereafter he located in Middleburg, clerking in a store for two years, and returned to Goshen, following the same occupation in a hotel, City Hall, etc., until April 18, 1861, when he started overland with horse teams for this State, arriving in Sacramento in August following. After working in that city one month he went to Bloomfield, Sonoma county, working at his trade six months; thence to Suisun, this county. Two months thereafter he made a short trip to Sacramento and San Francisco, and returned to Suisun, opening a boot and shoe shop in the fall of 1862. In March, 1871, moved to San Francisco, remaining five years, then came to Bird's Landing, where he now resides.

## TREMONT.

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**AGEE, CHRISTOPHER C.**, is a native of Buckingham county, Virginia, where he was born, February 26, 1826. When about six years old he removed with his parents to Charleston, and there received his education. In 1839, his parents again removing, he accompanied them to Lewis county, Mo., where he was employed as a clerk and bookkeeper for seven years, and then started in business on his own account, which he continued for four years. In 1849 he crossed the plains to California, arriving at Sacramento on September 4th of that year, when, shortly after, he and his brother (W. W. Agee) built the first store ever opened in Nevada City, Cal. He also worked at the mines with very good success. In 1852 he returned to Missouri, and purchased and improved a farm, on which he resided for five years, and then, selling out, he proceeded to Iowa Point, Kansas, on the Missouri river, and again engaged in trade, which he carried on for about four years, when he sold out, still holding his private property, and went with an ox-team to Pike's Peak, but not meeting with encouragement, at the end of two months he returned. Mr. Agee then traded his private property at Iowa Point for land in Carroll county, Mo., and also bought another farm in north-eastern Missouri, where he resided for two years; then he located in Illinois, where he speculated for a couple of years, when he sold his Missouri possessions, and once more started for California, with mule and ox-teams, accompanied by his brother-in-law, J. A. Ellis; arrived in Sacramento September 4, 1865. On arrival he rented a tract of land from Judge Curry, which he farmed for ten years, residing on the ranch for the first three years, the remainder being passed in Dixon. He also farmed four hundred acres of his own land in Yolo county, and, in November, 1877, he moved on to the place where he now lives, situated four miles north-east of Dixon. Mr. Agee married March 4, 1852, Miss Elizabeth J. Ellis, who was born in Oldham county, Kentucky, December 18, 1832, and has had Mary E.; William E.; Susan; and Walter L.; all of whom are deceased; and living, Charles F. and Lillie C.

**CLOUTMAN, JOSEPH F.**, born in New Hampshire, May 3, 1825, and when seven years old moved with his parents to Kittery, Maine, where he received his education. In 1841 or '42 he proceeded to Boston, Mass., and there was employed in a grocery store for one year, when he commenced to learn the trade of a house and sign painter. In 1849 he came to Cali-

fornia, by way of Cape Horn, arriving at San Francisco September 14, of that year. On arrival he settled at Sacramento, and followed his trade until the following year, when he removed to the mines, there remaining for six months; he returned to Sacramento, and once more established himself as a painter, which he continued till 1858. In this year Mr. Cloutman settled in Yolo county, Cal., farming and keeping a dairy there for three years, at which time he moved into Solano county, and located on the farm on which he now resides. On September 3, 1862, he was elected a Justice of the Peace for Tremont township, which office he held for eight years. On September 6, 1871, was elected Supervisor of District No. 3, and held that office for three years, being for two years Chairman of the Board. Was finally elected Constable of Tremont township on September 5, 1877, an office which he continues to hold. While a resident of Sacramento Mr. C. was twice burned out and twice flooded out. He married in 1846 Miss Mary J. Whitehouse, a native of New Hampshire, where she was born October 7, 1827, by whom he has Addie C.; Miriam, (dead); George F.; Charles H.; Willie F.

**FOSTER, GEO. W.**, was born in Lafayette, Missouri, November 11, 1829, where he received his education and farmed, until the spring of 1853, when he started across the plains for California, arriving at Lake Washington, October 19, of the same year, and then ran a ferry boat for two years. At this time he made a return voyage, via Panama, to his home, returning at the end of two months to the Golden State, accompanied by his mother and four sisters, and settled on the place where he now resides, at Tremont Station. Mr. Foster owns and farms three hundred and twenty acres of land; he is also proprietor of the warehouses, and conducts the shipping of all grain from that point to San Francisco and other ports. He married October 17, 1860, Miss Gincey L. Wall, who was born July 1, 1843, in his native county, and has Mary J., (deceased); William W.; Arthur T.; Everett E.; Elnore P.; Ethel.

**GUTHRIE, B. J.**, born in Richmond, Virginia, November 28, 1828, and when three years old removed with his parents to Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, where he received his primary education; when thirteen, he again accompanied his parents to Illinois, and there finished his schooling. When here, his parents died. Mr. Guthrie then went to St. Louis, and commenced life as a cabin-boy, on board a river steamer; after which he became a steward, and finally a pilot, on the Mississippi river. In April, 1852, he proceeded across the plains, to California, and, arriving at Diamond Springs in July, he opened a hotel, which he managed until June, of the following year, when he went to Prairie City and mined until January 1, 1864, when he settled on a farm about three miles south-west of

Davisville, where he now resides. He owns nine hundred and fifty-five acres in Solano county, and thirty-two in Yolo county. Mr. G. married, December 11, 1856, Miss Bettie A. Judd, who was born in Trumble county, Ohio, February 26, 1835.

**HYDE, SEPTA FILMORE**, was born in Vermont, June 7, 1819. When fourteen years of age he removed to Clinton county, N. Y., where he finished his education; here he settled, and, in company with his brother, S. E. Hyde, carried on a large machine, blacksmith, and carriage shop. In 1849 he transferred his business to De Kalb county, Illinois, where he also engaged in farming, until his starting for California, in April, 1852, accompanied by his wife, *nee* Miss Caroline Moore, whom he had married on February 9, 1843. Embarking at St. Louis for St. Jo., while on board the steamer, Mrs. Hyde died from the effects of an attack of cholera, and after her burial, her afflicted husband prosecuted his lonely journey across the plains, with his two young children—Phœbe R., and Asa F., the eldest of them not yet being four years. On arriving in California he proceeded to Placerville and worked in the mines till January, 1853; he then went to Diamond Springs, where he labored at lumbering up to November, 1856. In 1855, moved to Amador county, and was engaged in lumbering, when he settled on the place where he now lives, ten miles north-east of Dixon, situated in Tremont township, on the county line. Mr. Hyde was elected a Justice of the Peace for Tremont township on October 18, 1871; an office which he still continues to fill; has been a Notary Public for the district, and was mainly instrumental in the establishment of the first school district in Tremont. He married, secondly, July 7, 1855, Miss C. J. Saunders, who was born in Lewiston, Niagara county, N. Y., May 25, 1829, by whom he has Lena, Fred W., Leland S., Carrie M., Alvert. The children by his first wife are the above-named Phœbe R. and Asa F. Hyde.

**HYLAND, WILLIAM**, was born in Ireland, in the year 1828, and emigrated to Maryland, where he resided until 1856, when he came to California, via Panama, arriving at San Francisco February 14th, of that year. He engaged in mining at Webber Creek until August, when they removed to Tremont township, and located there till May, 1857, when he returned to the mines, sojourning there up to the month of February, of the following year, and then re-located in the Suisun valley, on one hundred and sixty acres of land, situated about four and a half miles north east of Dixon City. Mr. Hyland married, September 26, 1852, Miss Ann McCann, a native of Ireland, who died April 21, 1877, from the effects of an accident caused by a horse, when aiding her husband in some farm work. Their family consists of Mary A., Anna Eliza, Maria J., Emma, (deceased) William H., Alice G., Arthur, Allen A., Florence E., Nettie F.



**SNEAD, S. M.**, is a native of Campbell county, Virginia, where he was born September 10, 1823. When seventeen years of age he joined the Mexican expedition under General Scott, where he served for three years, returning to Virginia at its close, and commenced to learn a trade. In 1849 emigrated to California, and engaged in mining until 1852, when he began draying in Sacramento in the following year. He next went to the Eastern States, returning in 1854, bringing with him a drove of horses, and settled on a ranch on Cache creek slough, where he engaged in stock raising until 1861. This year he moved to the farm on which his family have resided since his death, on January 25, 1879. Mr. Snead, May 1, 1858, married Miss Mary McGuire, who was born in New Orleans, July 12, 1840. Their children are: John R., Samuel R., Stephen L., Katie A., Minnie L., Winneford F., and Lucinda M.

## SILVEYVILLE.

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**BROWN, C. P.**, received his early education in Howard county, Missouri, where he was born, June 11, 1820. He studied in 1838-40, and practiced it in that State until 1845, when he moved to Iowa, and located in Fremont county, where he again prosecuted his legal business until 1853, when he emigrated to San Joaquin county, California, and made farming his principal occupation. In 1874 he commenced a law practice in Dixon, which he continued for about a year, and in 1875 was elected a Justice of the Peace for Silveyville township, an office which he still holds. Mr. Brown married, in 1843, Miss Frances Frigitt, who was born in Clay county, Missouri, December 27, 1825, by whom he has Lizzie T., James J., (deceased), Hiram P., (deceased), Bennett C., Ann B., Prentiss, and Francis C.

**COLEMAN, NAPOLEON B. S.**, born in Woodford county, Kentucky, January 25, 1831. In September, 1848, he graduated at the Commercial College at Louisville, Kentucky, and in the Spring of the following year went to Jackson county, Missouri, and entered into partnership with John F. McCauley in the commission business. In May, 1853, this firm, in company with two more gentlemen, purchased about 2,000 head of cattle, and crossed the plains to California, arriving at Sacramento September 13th of that year. In the following year the quarternal partnership was dissolved, when the subject of this sketch proceeded to Volcano, Jackson county, California, and opened a mercantile and mining business, being joined in these operations with his brother, J. W. Coleman, now a prominent stock-broker of San Francisco. In 1859 Mr. N. B. S. Coleman arrived in Silveyville township, in Solano county, and settled on a farm five miles southeast of the present site of Dixon City, but at the time there was only one house in the corporation limits, which was owned by Thomas Dickson. Mr. C. prosecuted farming till 1872, when he moved into Dixon, where he has since resided, being engaged in real estate operations, farming and stock-raising. In 1869 he was elected County Assessor, and served for a term of two years. He owns about 1,000 acres of land. On March 13, 1855, Mr. C. married Miss Martha J. Kelley, who was born July 5, 1836, by whom he has eight children, viz., Eugene F., Alvin L., John W., Fannie S., Napoleon B. S., Mattie L., Lulu M. and Cimrie E.

**COTTEN, JAMES W.**, born in Polk county, Illinois, December 28, 1832. In that State he received his early education, which he finished in Mills county, Iowa. In 1851 he went to St. Joseph, Missouri, where he remained one year, and then proceeded to St. Louis, and there learned the trade of a sawyer. October 22, 1855, Mr. Cotten left for California, by way of Panama, landing in San Francisco December 11th of that year. On his arrival he proceeded to Amador county, where he passed that Winter, and in the following Spring started for the mines in Placer county, where he stayed until 1857, and then repaired to the Suisun valley, there farming for one year, on a location near Dixon; on the expiration of which he transferred his labors to San Jose, where he engaged in the lumber trade. In the Fall of the year 1859 Mr. C. returned to Illinois, and there embarked in the like business, which he gave up at the end of two years and went back to his former home in Iowa. In 1864 he started for Idaho Territory, in company with George Russell, and went into the hotel business on the Weiser River. In the following year he again began farming, which he continued till 1868, when he returned to Dixon and re-engaged in agricultural pursuits, which he gave up in 1872, and opened agencies for real estate and insurance. Was appointed a Notary Public, October 31, 1874, and on March 6, 1878, was commissioned a Justice of the Peace for Silveyville township—positions which he still continues to hold. Mr. Cotten married, November 29, 1873, Miss Priscilla J. Evans, who was born in Amador county, California, April 24, 1857, and has an only child, Lucy May, born January 2, 1875.

**CURREY, ROBERT J.**, is a native of Benicia, Solano county, California, having been born there December 30, 1851, where he remained until the Spring of 1860, when he went to New York and stayed one year. In 1864 he was sent to Santa Clara College for two years, and from there to a seminary in Oakland, Alameda county, where he studied for three years. In the Fall of 1870 he entered Yale College, New Haven, Connecticut, and graduated in 1873; after which he returned to the Pacific Coast, and in the following Spring was appointed Aid on the United States Coast Survey, which position he resigned in 1875, and located on a farm four miles north of Dixon, where he now resides. He is the owner of 640 acres.

**DASHIELL, W. A.**, was born in Somerset county, Maryland, on May 6, 1825. In the years 1835-40 he attended college in New Jersey. In the following year he entered the Military Academy at West Point, from which he graduated in June, 1845. He next traveled through the Western States until the spring of 1849, when he came to California and engaged in stock raising in Sacramento until 1853, when he left the

Pacific coast for Missouri, and there purchased sheep and cattle, with which he returned to this State, arriving in Los Angeles in December, 1853; and from thence proceeded to Sacramento, there following his avocation until 1856, and then moved into Solano county. From 1859 to 1862 he was traveling, after which he once more settled in this county; was agent for the California Pacific Railroad Company for three years when it first came through Dixon, since then he has been dealing in stock; is an insurance and real estate agent; held the office of Assessor for the Third District, to which he was elected September 4, 1867. Mr. Dashiell married, December 25, 1854, Miss Hester McKinley, who was born in Illinois, April 19, 1834, by whom he has: Matilda, Katie, Charlotte, (dead) Edward E., Agnes, George B., Fred., Annie, Benjamin, Hester, Robert, and Jessie.

**DICKSON, THOMAS**, was born in Pennsylvania on June 4, 1800. In 1804 he moved with his parents to Allegany county, New York, and remained there for about fifteen years, when they moved to Indiana. In 1832 served as a soldier in the Black Hawk war; in 1835 emigrated to Iowa, and in 1853 came to Diamond Springs, California, prosecuting mining for one year. In the following year he forsook the gold region and removed to Solano county and rented a piece of land one mile in a north-easterly direction from where the city of Dixon now stands. Mr. Dickson built the first house within the corporation limits of that city in the year 1855, which he has since enlarged. He has engaged in farming ever since he settled in the county. Mr. D. married, in 1833, Miss J. P. Hood, a native of Knoxville, Tennessee, who was born December 13, 1813, by whom he has: Elizabeth F., born February 1, 1834; William B., born April 16, 1836; Martin A., born January 2, 1840; Henry A., born March 31, 1843; Nathan, born August 12, 1846; James, born February 13, 1849, (since dead); Eva B., born July 14, 1853, and James, born December 4, 1855, (since deceased).

**DINSMORE, REV. J. M.**, was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, February 19, 1851. In 1861 he removed to Lawrence county, where he received part of his education, which he completed in Ohio. In 1875 he attended the Western Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, and in the following year proceeded to San Francisco, where he entered the Theological Seminary of that city and graduated April 26, 1878, after which he left for Dixon, Solano county, and took charge of the Presbyterian church there, he being now the resident pastor.

**DUDLEY, J. M.**, was born in Oswego county, New York, September 7, 1830. In 1836 he moved with his parents to Indiana, where he received his education, and after taught school during the winters of 1849-50-51.



In 1852 he crossed the plains to California, and, on arrival at a place where Dayton in Nevada State now stand, Mr. D. was stricken down with fever and confined to his bed for several months. As soon as able, after his recovery, he went to the mines. On account of sickness he was delayed in Carson valley during the winter of 1852-53. After his recovery he mined in Gold Cañon. As soon as the snow had sufficiently melted he continued his journey and settled on the Sacramento river, where he farmed for three years. In 1856 he removed from thence to Dixon, this county, near where he now resides. On first arriving in this section he taught school at Silveyville for four terms, since when he has given his undivided attention to farming. Mr. Dudley served two terms as Legislator in 1862-63, and in 1873 was defeated for the Senate by H. E. McCune. He was a Delegate to the Constitutional Convention which was convened at Sacramento in September, 1878. Mr. D. is a Republican in politics. He married November 24, 1857, Miss Elizabeth F. Dickson, born in Madison county, Illinois, February 1, 1834, by whom he has: Lucy J., Earl D., Frederick M., George D., and Elizabeth.

**ELLIS, JAMES ADDISON**, (deceased), was born May 1, 1842, in Lewis county, Missouri. At the commencement of the late war he enlisted as a private in Col. Glover's regiment of Union troops, and was engaged in north-west Missouri in the darkest days of that section. Mr. Ellis was wounded in a skirmish in Marion county and for many months lingered between life and death, but finally recovered. He was a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows fraternities, and also a Granger, in which he occupied a prominent position. In 1864 he married Miss Henrietta Johnson, and came to California in the following year, since which time, up till his death, he was a citizen of Solano county, residing near Dixon where he engaged in farming. He left a family of two girls, Carrie E. and Emma M., who now reside with their mother on the farm in Silveyville township.

**FRAHM, GEORGE**, is a native of Schleswig Holstein, Germany, having been born there on June 27, 1851. In 1867 he emigrated to California, arriving in San Francisco in August of that year, and proceeded without delay to the San Joaquin valley, where, in company with his brother, he, being one of the first agricultural settlers, commenced farming operations, which he continued until 1871. Left that section of the country and proceeded to Sacramento, where he started, as an errand boy, in a wholesale candy factory, and by good conduct and application, worked his way to the positions of salesman, book-keeper, and manager, respectively. In 1875 he removed to Dixon, Solano county, and jointly, with his brother, purchased the City Hotel; he bought out his brother on July 1, 1877,

since when he has conducted the establishment alone. In 1876 Mr. Frahm was instrumental in the building of the German Lutheran Church, in Dixon, and became President of its Building Committee. In 1878 he was elected foreman of the Fire Company; and is one of the City Trustees, as also City Treasurer. Mr. Frahm married August 17, 1877, Miss Amelia Hall, a native of Solano county, who was born March 6, 1859.

**HALL, RICHARD**, was born in Ireland, March 11, 1819. When four years old he accompanied his mother to Canada, his father being dead. He there learned the trade of a shoemaker, which he followed till seventeen years of age, when he removed to St. Lawrence county, N. Y., and again prosecuted his calling till 1849, when he transferred the scenes of his labors to Illinois; farming there till the spring of 1853, in which year he started across the plains for California with an ox team, arriving in Sacramento September 10, of that year, and worked at his trade until October 5, 1854. At this time he took passage for the Eastern States, on board the steamer "Yankee Blade," from Sacramento. When seventy miles from Santa Barbara, she struck a rock and became a total wreck, fortunately, with no loss of life, but much discomfort. This catastrophe was the cause of Mr. Hall once more turning his face towards the port which he had just left, and there re-purchased his former place of business. In the fall of 1854 he settled on the Wolfskill and Barker grant, where he farmed till 1857, when he located on the tract of land on which he now resides, two miles north of Dixon. On first arrival here Mr. Hall carried on a hotel, in connection with his farm; the former, however, he gave up, in 1869. As far back as 1861-2, he was the proprietor of the Union Hotel, in Sacramento. He married, first, on December 1, 1839, Miss Frances N. Hayne, who died November 6, 1868, leaving him ten children. Secondly, he espoused Mrs. Amelia Audnup, September 29, 1871, who was born in Preble county, Ohio, August 21, 1822.

**MACK, DARIUS**, born in Vermillion county, Indiana, February 24, 1829. In 1854, he left his native State and emigrated to California, arriving at Sacramento in February, 1854. He first kept a ferry for his brother, A. H. Mack, at Sutterville for one year, after which he opened a hotel at the same place, and then went to Folsom where, in company with his brother, H. B. Mack, he managed a small store and mined during three years. In 1857, he settled near Dixon, where he has lived ever since. He married, May 21, 1860, Miss Cynthia J. Cotten, who was born February 10, 1847. by whom he has: James H., born May 4, 1861; Darius W., born December 26, 1862, deceased 1863; Hozra B., born February 6, 1866; Sophonia J., born November 5, 1867, deceased 1878; Lottie L., born December 11, 1872.

**MAYES, JOHN S.**, was born in Knox county, Indiana, March 29, 1829, and went to Missouri with his parents when five years old. In April, 1850, he started for California, arriving at Placerville August 7, of that year, and worked in the mines until 1853, when he commenced teaming, an occupation he followed up to 1856, where he settled on his farm, situated in the suburbs of Dixon, where he now resides. He married, April 23, 1868, Miss Francis A. Hood, who was born in Iowa, June 20, 1850.

**MERRYFIELD, JUSTICE C.**, is a native of Wyoming county, New York, having been born there on February 7, 1818. In 1836, he went to Ogle county, Illinois, where he resided until 1850, and in that year came to California across the plains with horse team; arrived in Placerville in July and worked in the mines about one year when he moved to a farm in Sacramento county, residing there until January 1, 1857, when he located on another farm two miles north of Silveyville, Solano county, where he lived until 1864, when he settled in Silveyville, and has since resided there. September 4, 1861, was elected a Justice of the Peace for Vacaville township and held the office for that and after for Silveyville township until he resigned, December 29, 1874. In 1876, was elected President of the Bank of Dixon, a position he now holds; is a Director and one of the Auditing Committee of the Granger's Bank of San Francisco, to which he was elected in 1874. In 1873, was elected one of the Executive Committee of the State Grange and was re-elected three times, he is now serving his fourth term as Master of Dixon Grand Lodge. Is Chairman of the Executive Committee of the California College at Vacaville. Mr. Merryfield has been thrice married. He married, third, Mrs. Lizzie Crathers, August 10, 1876, who was born in Oakland county, Michigan, January 9, 1843.

**McKINLEY, GEO. C.**, born in Madison county, Illinois, July 2, 1832. In 1840, he moved with his parents to Missouri and then commenced his studies, which he finished in Gonzales county, Texas, whither he went in 1845. In 1852 he emigrated to Los Angeles county, California, along with his father and mother, but, as there was much trouble in that district in respect to land titles, at the end of seven months they left for Sacramento; when here he was employed in the nursery and vegetable garden of Paul Hamilton, where he continued for three years. In 1855, Mr. McKinley made another trip to the southern counties of the State in quest of land, but finding the former stumbling blocks still prevailing he remained but a short time and then returned to Sacramento, from whence he made for Lynchburg, near Oroville, and for two months pursued mining and finally returned to Sacramento. On October 6, 1856, he and his parents settled on the knoll south of Dixon, where the cemetery is now



located, and there pitched their tents, which was soon followed by the construction of a dwelling house. Mr. McKinley's father was an unfortunate passenger on board the steamer "Washoe" when she blew up near Rio Vista, on September 4, 1864, when he received injuries which resulted in his death at Sacramento, September 21, 1864. His mother still resides with him. In September, 1871, Mr. McK. was elected County Recorder, an office which he held for two years. He married, December 17, 1860, Miss Emeline Benton, who was born in Jo. Daviess county, Illinois, September 28, 1842, by whom he has: William B., Addison B., Charlotte, deceased, George, Robert L., Sidney S., Paulina, Lucino D.

**McPHERSON, ALEXANDER**, is a native of Nova Scotia, where he was born in July, 1836. In 1855 he emigrated to California, landing in San Francisco early in October of that year and proceeded to Sierra county and commenced mining, a pursuit which he labored at until 1861, when he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres from Charles Pearson, in Maine Prairie township, Solano county, which he managed until 1873 and then sold out. He, thereupon, acquired the adjoining farm on which he resided until 1878, when his house was destroyed by fire, compelling him to take up his residence in Dixon, where he now resides. He married Miss Sarah Newell, in September, 1861.

**NYE, ALFRED B.**, was born at Stockton, San Joaquin county, Cal., October 25, 1854, but resided principally in Tuolumne county, until six years of age, when he was taken by his parents to Plymouth county, Mass., where he remained till 1871. In this year he returned to California, and commenced acquiring the printer's trade in the office of the "Vallejo Chronicle;" subsequently became the local editor for that publication, and in April, 1877, purchased the "Dixon Tribune" newspaper, of which he is the present editor and publisher.

**REDDICK, HARDIN**, was born in Stokes county, North Carolina, June 13, 1810. Here he was educated. In 1835 moved to Monitau county, Missouri, where he engaged in farming until 1849, when he came the "overland route" to California, arriving in Sacramento on August 18th of that year. He removed to Yuba county, this State, soon after, where he prosecuted mining for ten days; when he was prostrated with sickness for eleven months, enduring all the sufferings incident to a camping life. On his recovery, he returned to Missouri, via Panama, engaging in farming for two years, and returned to Sacramento, Cal., in September, 1853, and soon after settled on the farm where he now resides. His early residence here was replete with hardships, he having to live under a tent for the first month. Married Susan Dearing, October 29, 1835; she was born in Stokes county, N. C., February 3, 1818. Their children are John W., Sarah A., and Catherine.



**ROHWER, HANS**, was born in Holstein, Germany, February 25, 1832. In the spring of 1852 he emigrated to Iowa, and remained there till 1854. In this year he crossed the plains to California, arriving at Placerville October 25th, and engaged in mining until September, 1856, when he settled on the farm where he now resides, about one mile south-east of Dixon.

**SILVEY, ELIJAH S.**, received his early education in St. Charles county, Missouri, where he was born, March 26, 1819. In 1849 he came to California, accompanied by his wife, whom he married on March 2, 1843, and his two children, arriving at Benicia in October, of the same year, where they resided until 1851. In this year they returned to Missouri, and in the next (1852) once more crossed the plains to California, bringing one hundred milch cows with them, and settled on the plains, where Silveyville now stands. The Silveys were the first settlers in this section of the county, and gave their name to one of the townships of Solano county. Mr. S. kept a hotel and saloon at the time of arrival, but a few years thereafter people commenced to locate, and a considerable town sprung up, which was, however, removed to Dixon on the completion of the railroad in that quarter. Mr. Silvey died November 11, 1869. His widow is the oldest settler at Silveyville. Their children are: Elmira J.; born December 19, 1846; Lucy, born April 30, 1848; George R., born November 4, 1850; Edward A., born June 28, 1853; Edmund, born October 10, 1856; James, born May 24, 1858; Florabelle, born November 4, 1861; Lee E., born July 11, 1867.

**SIMMONS, Jr., REV. J. C.**, is a native of the State of Georgia, having been born in Butts county, May 26, 1827, and graduated at Emory College, Oxford, Georgia, in 1848, after which he ministered in the Methodist Episcopal Church South, in that State. In 1852 he was sent to California as a missionary, reaching San Francisco February 26th of that year. He was sent to Grass Valley, Nevada county, Cal., filling that appointment for two years. In 1854 he moved to Stockton, where he remained for two years, at the end of which time he was sent to Mariposa, and thence to San Jose, remaining two years at each place, when he was appointed Presiding Elder of the San Francisco district, a position which he held for one year; he then moved to Sacramento, and there ministered for two years. In the fall of 1862 he moved to Santa Clara, remaining there one year, thence proceeded to Petaluma, Sonoma county, where he ministered for two years and a half, and during the third year was elected Professor of English Literature in the Pacific Methodist College at Vacaville, a position he retained until the removal of the institution to Santa Rosa, in Sonoma county, in 1870. The following year he was employed as Sunday School Agent for the Conference, and in the fall of 1871 was

appointed, for the second time, Presiding Elder for the San Francisco district, holding the office for one year. In 1872 he was stationed at San Jose, after which he left for Santa Rosa, where he was Presiding Elder for that district for four years. In the fall of 1877 he was appointed agent for Pacific Methodist College, but during the year was moved and stationed in San Francisco. In 1878 he was a delegate to the General Conference, held in Atlanta, Georgia, in May of that year, and in October he moved to Dixon, and has since had pastoral care of the Methodist Episcopal Church South there. In the fall of 1877 Mr. Simmons was appointed to deliver the quarter-century sermon at the session of his Conference held in Santa Rosa. In 1852 he assisted in the organization of the Pacific Annual Conference, and is the only effective member now left. Mr. S. married, June 28, 1853, Miss Margaret R. Campbell, of Madisonville, Hopkins county, Ky., by whom he has five children: John C., Jr.; Mary Blythe, William A., James H., and Mardis C.

**SMYTHE, PETER**, was born in Ottawa county, province of Ontario, Canada, May 10, 1836, and there received his early education. In the fall of 1853 he emigrated to Oregon, and engaged in mining operations, at Sailor's Diggings, for one year, when he moved into Klamath county, where he embarked in farming, which he prosecuted for nine years. In June, 1863, Mr. Smythe came to Silveyville township, Solano county, and settled on a farm about three miles from Dixon, where he remained till 1868, and then moved into that city, being employed in different mercantile firms until 1874, when he started in the lumber business for himself, in a yard situated on the west side of the railroad and north of the depot. In 1861-'2 he held the office of Justice of the Peace in Klamath county, Cal., and has served one term in a like capacity in Silveyville township, having been elected thereto in 1874. In April, 1878, on the incorporation of the City of Dixon, Mr. S. was elected City Trustee, and in the organization of the Board was elected Secretary, which office he still continues to hold. He married May 3, 1868, Miss Anna Brown, a native of Edenderry, King's county, Ireland, by whom he has one child, Christiana M. J. T.

**TIMM, PETER**, born in Holstein, Germany, November 18, 1836, where he learned the trade of a cabinet maker. He then emigrated to Iowa, and worked on a farm for four years. In 1859 he crossed the plains to California with an ox-team, arriving at Placerville September 20th of that year. For his first two years he engaged in mining, and then embarked in farming, after which he worked at his trade in San Mateo county, until 1864, when he settled on a ranch, about five miles east of Dixon, on which he resided for four years; he then sold out, and purchased that on which he now lives, situated half a mile north-east of Dixon. In 1872-'3 Mr. Timm

was Deputy Assessor of the northern end of the county, and in 1874-'5 he was Tax Collector for the whole of Solano. When the City of Dixon was first started, Mr. Timm moved a large proportion of the houses from Silveyville and Maine Prairie. He is a Steward of the Society of Dixon Grangers, No. 19. He married, in May, 1867, Miss Cecilia Benk, who was born in Holstein, December 25, 1846, by whom he has Laura A.; Henry; William; Louisa.

**UDEL, DOCTOR O. C.**, (deceased), was born in Ohio, June 8, 1820, where he received his education, and graduated in medicine. When twenty-four years of age he went to Iowa, and commenced the practice of his profession, which he continued for five years. In 1850 he came to California, crossing the plains with horses, which were stolen from him when near Salt Lake; he, therefore, was forced to undertake the balance of the journey on foot, accompanied by his four companions, which was accomplished by their arrival in Yuba county, where he remained till the following year, and then returned to Iowa. In 1852 he once more crossed the plains; on this occasion, bringing with him his wife and two children, as well as a drove of cattle. He now settled near Winters, but on the Solano county side of the Putah creek, and confined himself to the raising of stock and farming, which he followed as long as he lived. In 1860 he located on the farm now occupied by his widow, situated four miles west of Dixon. He died there on December 11, 1872. Doctor Udell married, November 6, 1848, Miss Caroline Winton, who was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, January 17, 1827. Their children are: Alva, David, Edwin, Olivia, May, Carrie (deceased), George, Blanche, Ralph, Grace.

**WEIHE, EDWARD**, born in Germany, July 30, 1830. In 1850 came to California, and for five years engaged in mining in El Dorado county. For the next four years he followed the cigar trade in San Francisco, and for two years more in Stockton, whither he has moved his business. Mr. Weihe then proceeded to Mokelumne Hill, Calaveras county, and there opened an establishment for general merchandise, which he continued for nine years, when he removed to San Francisco, and commenced a produce business, which he carried on for two years. In 1871 he settled in Dixon, where he engaged in the liquor and cigar trade, in connection with which he carried on an exchange and broker business. Mr. Weihe married, November 17, 1863, Miss Minnie Trenchehel, who was born in St. Louis, February 12, 1843, by whom he has Gustavus A. P., Otto A., Frederick W., Bertie E., Florence C.

















